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17: 43

While gentle breezes, from their fragra
shed all ye odours of a thousand springs.
Harmonious birds among the branches so
And all ye grove with cheerfull echoes ring

What pen has power wth justice to ext
The inward Worth his speaking looks cony

What pen can paint
The thousand graces
Center'd in his Face

CHIT-CHAT:

O R,

NATURAL CHARACTERS;

And the MANNERS of

REAL LIFE,

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ADVENTURES.



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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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BOOK the FIRST.

IN a pleasant part of this metropolis, commodiously situated between the court and the city, lived Mr. Byersley, a gentleman possessed of an easy fortune, a good understanding and an excellent heart. He had buried a wife equally engaging on account of her personal charms and mental accomplishments, (after a happy union of one and twenty years) who left behind her a daughter, (their only child) aged about nineteen, not less agreeable and deserving than herself.

CHARLOTTE BYERSLEY was, at her mother's death, a fine girl, in the bloom of youth,

youth, and very handsome. She had regular features, a fair complexion, set off by a large quantity of dark glossy hair; her eyes were very spirited, yet full of the most winning softness: her stature was of the middle size, and her shape easy.

SHE had greatly improved her mind by reading the best authors, and conversing with her sensible parents, who lov'd her excessively; and she gratefully repaid their tenderness, by the most affable behaviour and a perfect obedience to all their desires. Having had only a domestic education, she knew little of the world, and being naturally of a frank and generous disposition, too readily believed that those she conversed with were as frank and generous as herself. As her father and mother both chose a private life, and prefer'd each other's company to the prate of common visiters, they had not a numerous acquaintance. My fashionable readers will perhaps scream out at this sketch of Charlotte's family, and think, no doubt, that the poor creature was a mere mope; but

but they will find, in the sequel, that she had some knowledge of the beaumonde.

CHARLOTTE had very few companions of her own sex when she lost her mother, by whose death both she and her father were deeply afflicted : but as he was solicitous to preserve his daughter, to supply in some measure the loss of his wife, he would not suffer her to indulge her grief, (fearing it might prejudice her health) but sought every amusement which he thought would contribute to assuage it. For this purpose he often invited a female neighbour, who had visited occasionally in the family, some years before Mrs. Byersley died.

Miss Arabella Seward was the daughter of a gentleman whose taste for expensive living had carried him rather beyond the bounds of prudence; however, he made shift to leave at his death a pretty fortune to this only child, and left her to the care of an uncle. Mr. Seward was a widower, and having no child of his own, was

very fond of his niece, who assisted him in entertaining his company, with great politeness and satisfaction, as she inherited all her father's taste for pomp and splendor : to which indeed her uncle had in his heart an aversion, tho' he was obliged to make a figure in the world, as he had a considerable post under the government.

THIS lady was five years older than Miss Byersley ; tall, genteel, and had been handsome, but a constant pursuit of all the public diversions, irregular hours, and high living, had ruin'd her beauty and impair'd her health. She wanted neither sense nor penetration, but partly from indolence, and partly from self-conceit, learnt every thing in so superficial a manner, that the company she had kept, and the instructions she had received, were of little service towards regulating her passions, or bettering her morals : Her outward behaviour was polish'd, specious and insincere. She had no other aim but to secure a rich husband, and therefore encouraged all kinds of lovers, provided they

they had money : among these some men of real worth were at her devotion, but her coquettish disposition, and immoderate love of show, had driven away all but one, to seek for conjugal happiness elsewhere.

CHARLOTTE was charmed with miss Bell's easy assurance, and lively conversation ; and she thought Charlotte a very engaging young novice, to whom she might boast of her conquests, without being suspected either of coquetry or falsehood. Charlotte had no idea of the first, and could not imagine that a woman of miss Seward's appearance would be guilty of the last. The only thing that Bell feared from this intimacy was, that her companion's beauty would attract every body's admiration, and make her own dangles forsake her. For this reason she seldom invited her to her uncle's, but when she expected no company. One evening however, her servant-mistook the orders which had been given for a general denial, and Mr. Read surprised the two friends, who had intended to be private.

did not know how to refuse him handsomely.

WHEN they came to her father's house, he enter'd with her, and made him a few flourishing compliments on his daughter's personal charms, (tho' he saw him engag'd with two gentlemen) and intreated his consent to wait on them again. As Mr. Byersley behaved like a gentleman to all who he thought deserved that appellation, he answer'd him with equal civility, but neither directly invited nor forbid him to come : but Read understood the answer in his own way, and wished him a good night, fully designing to make all possible advantage of this first and fortunate introduction.

THE visitors whom Charlotte found with her father were Mr. Welford and his son. The old gentleman had been long acquainted with Mr. Byersley, and had brought his son to pay his compliments to him, after finishing his studies at Cambridge. Mr. Byersley had prevailed on them to spend

the evening with him, to amuse him in his daughter's absence. Young Welford was well made, his countenance had a manly sweetness in it, mix'd with great sensibility, and his form appear'd, upon the whole, very graceful. He was modest and reserved in general companies, but open and chearful among those who, he believed, were his friends. He was thoroughly acquainted with all parts of polite literature, master of a pleasing address, and perfectly sincere : sometimes indeed, he was too credulous, and too warm in his sentiments.

WITH such company had Mr. Byersley been entertained, when the addition of Charlotte's not a little contributed to the satisfaction of his guests, especially the younger of them, who was more struck at her unaffected carriage, and the tenderness she discovered for her father, than with her person, tho' he could not help thinking that she was the finest woman he had ever seen. Full of these ideas he took his leave, and propos'd to make frequent

quent visits to so agreeable a family. But to return to Mr. Read :

HE passed the night in reflecting on Charlotte's charms, and devising what method would be most eligible for a speedy intimacy with her. To go again the next day would, he thought, be too abrupt, and might offend her father. Miss Seward's assistance seem'd, at last, to be absolutely necessary. He therefore dressed, and went to breakfast with that young lady, for as he was resolved to give up his old mistress, he deemed it better (so impolitically do lovers often act) to let her know his intention, before he got a new one. Arabella received him with a seeming coldness, in order to punish him for his indifference the evening before, and gave him thereby a good opportunity to open his mind. He complained artfully enough of her behaviour ; upon which she immediately fired with envy and indignation, and upbraided him with his neglect of her, and the preference he gave to her friend. He frankly owned that her accu-

B 5

sation

fation was just, and said he desired no greater happiness than her lovely friend's favour; telling her plainly, at the same time, that her coquetry grew insupportable, and that she must reckon him no longer among her admirers. Her rage, vehement as it was before, now knew no bounds: she told him very briskly, that his insolence was not to be borne: then (shewing him the door) desired him to leave her instantly, and never return again.

HE now began to think he had made a false step, to recover which he tried every art he was master of; he endeavoured to sooth her passion, and to prevail on her not to prejudice her friend against him, if she would not herself introduce him to her. But all his rhetoric was to no purpose: she vowed revenge, equal to the wrongs she had received, and calling for her capuchin, set out directly for Mr. Byersley's, in spite of all his efforts to prevent her.

LUCKILY for him, Charlotte was abroad with her father, who gave her an airing that

that day, and when Bell returned home, her uncle told her she must prepare to receive some of his friends at dinner, and set out with them afterwards to his country-house at Richmond, where he intended to regale them a few days. Nothing could have happen'd more disagreeable to her than this request, for she had no leisure to call again on Charlotte; so that she left the town in a pet, and her rival (as she thought her) triumphing over a heart of which she was no longer the possessor.

DURING her absence, young Welford made another visit to Mr. Byersley, and had a more particular interview with his daughter: but the conversation between them was of a different nature from that which amuses the generality of both sexes, in their *mollis tempora fandi*, their soft moments of courtship. He neither prais'd her beauty nor her dress, nor did he descant on the present state of the *beau-monde*, with which indeed he was not much acquainted, and therefore could not talk fluently on fashionable topics. As his fa-

vourite diversions had ever been of the theatric kind, he had chiefly frequented the two play-houses, and could harangue on authors and actors, with great readiness and propriety : he was silly enough to have no taste for routs, ridottos and masquerades, and so stupid that he look'd upon gaming as a criminal amusement.

'Tis true, for want of being accustomed to gallantry, the young academician was at a loss at first (tho' he had both a capacity and inclination to please) for that easy flowery manner of expression, by which men of the town are so distinguish'd. But Charlotte was wise enough to read more in "the modesty of fearful duty" than in "the rattling tongue of saucy and audacious eloquence," and as she knew he was lately come from the university, began to start subjects on which she supposed he could show himself to advantage ; and enquired particularly after the state of poetry, and rising geniuses, there. . . . Wel-ford, who was glad of an opportunity to oblige her, gave a very clear and enter-taining

taining account of the colleges and students, and produced several ingenious pieces of poetry, with which Charlotte (who had a good taste) was highly delighted. In the midst of their chat, Mr. Byersley accosted them a little too abruptly, some of my readers will say, and indeed rightly enough, for when two young people are busied in a *tete a tete* conversation, the intrusion of a father is somewhat *mal-à-propos*. But Charlotte was so well satisfied of her father's affability and good-nature, that his presence did not in the least disconcert her; and Welford managed matters so happily, that the old gentleman was very fond of him, and invited him to come again in two days.

ALL this time Mr. Read was very impatient to see Charlotte; but fearing that miss Seward had been with her, and spoken disadvantageously of him, he could not soon resolve what to do. At last, his impatience got the better of his fears; and he ventured to go; but unluckily happen'd to pitch upon the same day that

Welford

Welford had. He went early in the morning, in hopes of finding her at home, and was not disappointed ; for as she expected Welford, she was prepared to receive him, but seemed to be a little embarrassed at the sudden appearance of Read. Whether he looked on her innocent blushes as happy omens, or whether he was afraid he might not have such another opportunity, I cannot determine, but he disclosed his passion in the most respectful terms. Charlotte (who often had heard her friend mention him as her favourite lover) civilly answered him, that as she had great reason to believe he was engaged to Miss Seward, he could not have taken a more certain method to affront them both, than by making such a declaration. Read, who imagined that his old mistress had unfolded the whole affair, said, he once indeed had thoughts of that lady, but that she had treated him ill ; and that, since he had had the pleasure of seeing her, he could think of no body else : begging her to believe the sincerity of his expressions,

expressions, and to look upon him as unassurably hers alone. Charlotte, who always hated deceit, thanked him coolly for the good opinion he had of her, and desired him to change the conversation. Read was just going to reply, when Welford entered the room: as Charlotte was thoroughly displeased with the former, and preferred the latter to all the men she had ever seen, she directed all her discourse to him, which would have given him the highest satisfaction, had he not been apprehensive, from Read's visible uneasiness, that her uncommon attention to himself was owing to a temporary dislike of his rival. In this whimsical situation, Arabella surprized them, being eager to talk privately with Charlotte. Welford, whom she had never seen before, appeared so agreeable, and the other so contemptible in her eyes, that she addressed herself wholly to him, in order, perhaps, to shew more strongly her aversion to Read. Welford, elated with the thoughts of being preferred to Read, behaved with uncommon gaiety, and Charlotte liked him better

him better than ever : nor did Bell admire him less, for she play'd off all her alluring airs, in hopes of making a conquest of his heart.

To this display of her person, she was animated by three motives. In the first place, she could not be easy, while her friend seemed to be so : secondly, she wanted to supply Read's place, who, she saw plainly, was a deserter ; and, thirdly, she thought that Welford was a man of solid sense and excessive modesty, but ignorant of the world, and therefore more likely to be caught by a showy woman. As Read had no share in this interview, he prudently retired, till he could reflect on what was proper to be done at such a crisis. Bell, who longed to ask Charlotte a thousand questions, resolved to out-stay Welford. Her intention was nevertheless defeated, for her uncle, coming home much indisposed, sent for her in a hurry. She found him so ill, that physicians were immediately sent for, and he lay, near three weeks, in a very dangerous way, during which

which time, she made several elopements, in order to talk privately with Charlotte, but never could meet with her disengaged, except once, and then concealed all she knew of Read, which would, in her opinion, give offence. When Charlotte told her of his pretensions, she affected not to hear them, but eagerly enquired into every particular relating to Welford, yet in so artful a manner, that Charlotte could have no suspicion of her real motive. During her uncle's illness she had had leisure to reflect seriously on her own situation, and considered, that, to make Welford in love with herself, she must hinder his intercourse with Charlotte, and fix her inclinations on Read. This scheme she resolved to put in execution; but her uncle's physicians advising him to try the country air, she was obliged to attend him, and when she went to take leave of Charlotte, Welford (now a constant visiter) was with her; therefore she had no opportunity to speak to her as she wished, but tried to make use of her time in the best manner she could, by playing off her
airs

airs once more to Welford, who paid not the least regard either to them or her. His passion for Charlotte increased every day, and he only waited for a lucky moment, to make a full confession. Read was far from being cured of his passion; but as she had always treated him with a formal civility, whenever they met, and never gave him room to expect any thing farther, he was forced to appear satisfied, tho' he was greatly nettled to find that Welford was so formidable a rival.

Mr. Byersley was very attentive to the behaviour of these gentlemen towards his daughter, but as he saw no impropriety in her conduct, and relied on his Charlotte's prudence, he did not chuse to fill her head with meer surmises. He rather chose to stay till she inform'd him herself of the situation of her affairs, as he doubted not but she would, at a proper time, and only gave her some general advice.

WHILE Charlotte had raised such a disturbance in the breasts of both her admirers,

ters, her own was not in the most peaceful state. The merit and assiduity of Welford made a deep impression on her gentle heart, and though she concealed the emotions of it, she earnestly wished to inspire him with sentiments in her favour. Sometimes she fancied she had succeeded, but was always diffident of her own charms and address : he too was diffident, and made several fruitless attempts to confess his passion, being fearful of giving offence where he was most solicitous to merit approbation. At length, a trifling incident put an end to their doubts on both sides.

One evening, as Welford was drinking tea at Mr. Byersley's, a lady, who sometimes visited there, happened to say, among other things, that an affecting play of Shakespear's was to be revived on the following evening ; upon which Charlotte could not suppress her inclination to see it, and as her father was easily persuaded to go with her, he engaged Mr. Welford and the lady to be of the party : they both engaged

engaged with pleasure, and a servant was order'd to secure four places in the front boxes. They went accordingly, but Welford, though he doated on the amiable Charlotte, and had placed himself close by her side, could not be inattentive to the play, while Garrick was on the stage, whose every look and gesture demanded peculiar notice. In a very tender scene, towards the end of the play, he turned round to see in what manner his mistress was affected with it, as he could not behold it himself without the greatest emotion. He turned, he saw, and he admired ; for Charlotte gave him at that instant a fresh proof of the sensibility of her heart, by letting fall a shower of tears. He viewed her in a new light ; but though she appeared more attractive than ever, he could not help being concerned lest the distress should be too poignant for her : he knew not how to alleviate it, but by gently pressing her hand, and looking " unutterable things." During this lover-like behaviour, two gentlemen in the adjoining box, whispered so many fine speeches

speeches to each other about Charlotte, that Wellford, who over-heard them, was somewhat alarmed ; but he was still more dissatisfied after the play, for those gentlemen followed him and Charlotte out of the house, and order'd their servant to go to Mr. Byersley's, while they themselves went into a chariot with coronets. Wellford did not know what to make of this adventure, but concluded one of them at least was an admirer of Charlotte, and feared lest the united powers of rank and fortune might for ever distance his humble addresses. He retired therefore to his own lodgings, after he had waited on her home, to ruminate on what course he should take, to discover his passion for her. Sometimes he resolved to write, doubting whether he could muster up courage enough to speak ; but he thought afterwards that she would never trust her real sentiments in a letter, and therefore determined to wait on her in the morning, and disclose his inmost thoughts.

WHEN

WHEN he was introduced to her, he found himself at a loss for words, tho' he had formed a speech proper for the occasion, and was insensibly over-awed by her presence. She happen'd to be alone, and after the usual compliments were past, his timidity was insensibly removed, by her observing that the tragedy, which they had seen the night before was excellently performed. "It was indeed, Madam," said he, "and I was charmed with your behaviour at the most distressful part of it: I was only afraid that you would suffer, by having the tender passions put to so severe a trial. The principal characters were perform'd with such judgment and spirit, that no body, I think, not quite divested of humanity, could see it unmoved; yet 'tis, methinks, but a gloomy pleasure at best which we receive from reading a well-written, or seeing a well acted tragedy."

"I am obliged to you, Sir," answer'd Charlotte, "for your kind concern about me,"

“ me, but the sorrow we feel at a tragedy,
 “ is of too short a duration to be attended
 “ with very ill consequences ; and is ge-
 “ nerally, in my opinion, much lessened,
 “ if not altogether obliterated, by our
 “ considering that the scenes we grieve
 “ at are imaginary.” “ I may infer from
 “ thence, madam, that your compassion
 “ would be more strongly excited, and
 “ remain much longer, by the appearance
 “ of a real object in distress. Undoubt-
 “ edly,” replied she, “ and I should ap-
 “ plaud myself for being compassionate
 “ on such an occasion. We are all liable to
 “ misfortunes, and nothing I believe tends
 “ so much to sooth and assuage them, as
 “ the humane and tender officiousness
 “ of those about us. How then can
 “ I with-hold that pity from others
 “ which I should myself expect in a
 “ parallel case ? ” “ Madam,” said he,
 “ you have a just way of thinking, and
 “ I sincerely wish that you may never
 “ want the world’s pity. I thank you,
 “ Sir, for your good wishes, but must not
 “ expect

“ expect to make the voyage of life, with-
 “ out crosses or disappointments. I have
 “ already experienced some, by losing one
 “ of the best of mothers, and shall inevi-
 “ tably meet with more, if I survive my
 “ other relations and friends. It behoves
 “ me therefore to arm myself with resolu-
 “ tion and patience, in order to support
 “ me under the various casualties to
 “ which all human beings are necessarily
 “ subject.”

“ CHARMING moralist,” said Welford
 softly : but raising his voice.—“ Oh, Miss
 “ Byersley ! resolution and patience will
 “ afford me, I doubt, little comfort, if I
 “ meet with one disappointment which I
 “ am just now, perhaps, on the point of
 “ receiving.” “ How ? ” returned she
 hastily “ are you not happy ? ” “ Ma-
 “ dam,” said Welford as hastily “ do
 “ you wish I were happy ? ” “ I wish
 “ for every body’s happiness,” replied
 she, “ who has merit, and am inclined to
 “ think from what I already know of
 “ you, that you are among the number
 of

“ of the deserving.” “ Then, madam, I
 “ may venture to assure you, that you
 “ alone have the power to make me
 “ compleatly happy. I admired you the
 “ first time I saw you, and have discover-
 “ ed new beauties in you ever since ; your
 “ personal charms first caught my eyes,
 “ your mental qualifications have won
 “ my heart : yes, miss Byersley, I have
 “ the sincerest affection for you, and
 “ should think myself the happiest man
 “ in the world, by possessing so amiable,
 “ so accomplished a woman.”

CHARLOTTE, though she earnestly long-
 ed for this declaration of her lover's
 sentiments, was in some confusion ; she
 blushed and was silent for a few moments,
 while Welford, fearing he had displeased
 her, impatiently expected her answer. She
 kept him not long in suspense, but lift-
 ing up her eyes full of the sweetest conde-
 scension, revived his drooping spirits by
 the following words : “ I think, Mr.
 “ Welford, I have no reason to question
 “ your sincerity, nor shall you have any

“ to doubt mine. You are far from be-
 “ ing disagreeable to me; but we have
 “ neither of us a right to dispose of our-
 “ selves, while our fathers behave indul-
 “ gently to us, without their approba-
 “ tion.” “ I flatter myself, madam,”
 replied he, “ with the hopes of making
 “ my proposal agreeable to mr. Byersley,
 “ if you have no objection, and am sure
 “ that my father will not dislike the alli-
 “ ance. But, to remove all doubts, I
 “ will immediately endeavour to find
 “ him, and”——“ Stay, Mr. Welford,”
 said Charlotte, holding him, “ stay, sir,
 “ I beseech you let us not be too hasty—
 “ we are both young, and have not long
 “ known each other ;—as we have been
 “ so desirous of pleasing, we may perhaps
 “ have only discovered each other’s most
 “ favourable dispositions. Let us converse
 “ a little longer together, as common ac-
 “ quaintance, and if we discover no defects,
 “ nor make any change in our opinions, we
 “ may then solicit the consent of our pa-
 “ rents.” Excuse me, Madam, for differing
 “ from you in this point,” said Welford,
 “ I cannot

“ I cannot give up the lover so easily, as I
 “ am fully persuaded that, instead of de-
 “ fects, I shall trace out new beauties in
 “ you, as our intimacy increases ; and that
 “ I shall be more encouraged to conquer
 “ my own bad habits, when I am receiv-
 “ ed by my Charlotte as one who is to
 “ be united to her for ever.”

CHARLOTTE was not offended with his
 eagerness, and answered with a smile, “ I
 “ am afraid I am in a dangerous situation,
 “ for I feel no desire to oppose your incli-
 “ nation, though I don’t thoroughly ap-
 “ prove it.” He was going to reply
 with the same freedom, but the entrance
 of company prevented him : he therefore
 took his leave of her, and went in search
 of his father, to whom he communicated
 his intentions of marrying Miss Byersley.

OLD Mr. Welford was, according to
 the general phrase, “ a good sort of man,”
 but had no notion of those refined senti-
 ments, which made his son so agreeable.
 He thought Charlotte was a fine girl, knew

her father had given her a sober education, and was in easy circumstances ; he therefore applauded his son for chusing so judiciously, and said he would make the young lady a visit upon the happy occasion.

CHARLOTTE was as impatient as her lover had been to acquaint her father with the conclusion of their interview, and when the company departed, told him every thing that had passed between them. Mr. Byersley wished earnestly to see his daughter happily married ; and was so partial to the nuptial state, (having enjoy'd himself so much felicity in it) that he thought no body could feel any lasting satisfactions out of it. As he had a very high opinion of young Welford, and no mean one of his father, he commended her prudent conduct, thank'd her for so early a confidence, and told her he would do all in his power to promote her happiness, and to make it permanent.

SHE thanked him with tears of gratitude and true filial affection. Welford,
after

after this time, was seldom absent from the house, except particular business detain'd him. His father made a visit to Mr. Byersley, as he intended, and showed the highest approbation of Charlotte : he said he was obliged to set out on a Yorkshire journey, in order to look after an estate just fallen to him in that county, and hoped to find the young folks ready to be tacked together, when he came back. He gave Mr. Byersley an account of his income, and mention'd what fortune he should make over to his son. Mr. Byersley told him that he would leave all he had to his daughter, but could give her no more than 5000 £. down. Mr. Welford was very much satisfied with that sum, assured him that the settlement should be proportionable, and promis'd to give speedy orders to his lawyer about it.

HERE Charlotte thought proper to interpose, and addressing herself to the elder Mr. Welford, said, " As your stay, Sir, " in the country will be short, why may
 C 3 " not

“ not every thing be delay’d ’till your
 “ return ? ” The old gentleman answer’d
 it should be as she pleas’d, while the young
 one chid her only with his eyes for pro-
 posing this delay, and, in a few days after-
 wards, Mr. Welford set out for his new
 estate.

It is now time to enquire after Miss
 Seward. Her uncle had relaps’d in the
 country ; and she was therefore oblig’d to
 stay with him much against her will, and
 longer than she expected. CHARLOTTE
 wanted to see her friend again with great
 impatience, that she might inform her of
 her new prospect of happiness. Mr. Read
 occasionally visit’d at her father’s house,
 and was always treated with civility, (as
 he wanted not sense) and receiv’d as Miss
 Seward’s particular friend. Mr. Byersley
 did not take him to be one of his daugh-
 ter’s lovers, as he had never made any
 proposal, but imagin’d he only came to
 amuse himself with her company, and to
 see how she would conduct herself. His
 visits, however, began to be less frequent ;
 for

for Charlotte concluding he was still her friend's lover, gave him no encouragement : besides, Read had the mortification to perceive every time he came to see Charlotte, that Welford's intimacy increased. He therefore despaired of succeeding, and went not to the house for three weeks, at the end of which Bell arrived in town.

BELL went directly to Charlotte, and finding her alone, received from her an exact account of every thing relating to Welford's addresses, which gave her so much vexation, that she was forced to complain of an aching head, in order to disguise the emotions she felt from an aching heart. She left her, with a promise to return as soon as she had recover'd from the fatigue of travelling, and the uneasiness her uncle's illness has occasion'd ; but the true reason was, to consider how she might frustrate all the schemes which had been form'd in her absence.

SHE found that Welford had made a great progress in a short time, yet did not give up the hopes of gaining her points, if she could by any means prevail upon her discarded swain to join with her on this critical occasion. She accordingly sent to Mr. Read, and desired he would come speedily to her ; for she had something of consequence to impart to him, with regard to a certain lady, which would not, she believed, be disagreeable to him.

READ (so credulous are all innamorato's) could not help fancying that this message related to Miss Byersley, and flew to Arabella with all the expedition of an animated lover.—She then cunningly accosted him, thus :

“ THOUGH you resolve to leave me
 “ for ever ; I will, nevertheless, make
 “ you sensible, that I have still some
 “ regard for you : I have learnt from
 “ Miss Byersley, that Welford is not so
 “ great a favourite as he was : and if
 “ you

“ you will take my advice, I believe I can
 “ prepossess her in your favour.

He was very agreeably surpris'd at this speech, thank'd her in the strongest terms for the assistance she promis'd, and vowed to obey her directions punctually. “ You
 “ have nothing to do,” said she, “ but
 “ to go very often to Mr. Byersley's, and
 “ to behave with your usual complaisance :
 “ you will then, I trust, soon perceive a
 “ change in your behalf; and all the re-
 “ ward I expect is inviolable secrecy, with
 “ regard to myself.” To which he was going to make a thousand protestations ; but she hurried him away, telling him he had no time to lose.

AFTER she had dispatched Read, she dress'd herself to the best advantage, and went to Charlotte, whom she found alone, and very intent upon a note, which Welford had sent, to excuse himself for not waiting on her at dinner, according to promise, (having been prevented by busi-

kissed her, called her a sweet girl, but desired her not to take any notice to Welford of such trifles ; for that she wished her behaviour was perfect, only that she might be suitable to so worthy a lover.

AFTER this dialogue, they amused themselves by relating to each other every little incident that happen'd within their own notice, during their separation, 'till the arrival of Mr. Read obliged them to enter upon a new subject.

CHARLOTTE (pleased to have it in her power to shew how kindly she took Bell's reproof) behaved with the utmost politeness to Read ; yet in so proper a manner, that Welford (who came soon after his rival) could not possibly be offended. She presented Miss Seward to him, as her particular friend, who said, that he also ought to be honoured with that title, and Bell, accordingly consented to grant him that request. As every one in this little party appeared to be quite happy, and well satisfied with each other, the hours
past

past away very agreeably, and several schemes for the enjoyment of the public diversions in vogue, were laid : but a play being their favourite one, these seeming friends, attended by Mr. Byersley (who was not cynical enough to be disgusted with the company of young people) went on the succeeding night to the best that was perform'd.

BELL was particularly delighted with the above chatty interview ; because it afforded her a good opportunity to carry on her designs upon Welford, by engaging him in conversation ; and she succeeded ; for he was now more attentive to her, because his Charlotte had so great a regard for her : and Read (who was weak enough to imagine that Bell really was his friend, and wished to promote his happiness with another, as she had no prospect of it with him herself) was doubly assiduous to entertain Charlotte, by whom he was received with the highest good-humour.

ABOUT

ABOUT a week passed in this amicable manner, and Bell wanted nothing to compleat her designs upon Welford but a private meeting with him. This was not so easily to be obtained—To send for him abruptly, was too bold a venture. —To go to him herself was equally hazardous, and her visit might occasion odd suspicions. She therefore proposed to invite Mr. Byersley, Charlotte, Welford, and Read, to spend the following evening with her, which they agreed upon very willingly. When the day of invitation came, she tripp'd to Mr. Byersley's after dinner, and amus'd Charlotte with a story, that her uncle had (unknown to her) desired some friends to sup with him, and begg'd that she and her father would chuse another evening, as her uncle's companions would neither be agreeable to them nor herself. “ I have sent to Read and Welford,” said she, “ to let them know “ of my disappointment : the latter, I “ suppose, will be with you, Charlotte,
“ by

“ by and by : so I bid you adieu till to-morrow.”

THE artful Arabella had, indeed, disengaged Read, but not Welford, whom she impatiently expected : nor was she deceived—For he, eager to meet his Charlotte, came early, and was accosted by her with unusual familiarity. “ I am really ashamed and concerned, Mr. Welford,” said she, “ at what I am going to tell you, but it is not in my power to prevent it.”—“ Good God! Madam,” cried he, “ what means this apology?—I hope Charlotte is well? won’t she be here? ’Tis about her,” resumed she, “ that I am commissioned to speak to you : “ but how will you, who merit the kindest treatment from one of the most deserving women in the world, bear to hear, that you meet with the unkindest from a person, who, for that single reason, ought not to be reckoned deserving. You alarm me excessively, madam,” replied he hastily, “ what can your words drive at?—”

“ Charlotte,

“ Charlotte, my unworthy friend,” said she, “ never intends to see you more.” — “ Bless me,” said he, full of amazement, “ what have I done ? — Can you be serious ? I left her this morning the kindest, gentlest, best of creatures.” “ You left her,” said Bell, apparently worthy of those endearing epithets; but I called on her soon after you was gone — She pressed me to go with her into her dressing-room, and then (shutting the door) began in the following manner.”

“ You have often told me, my dear, Arabella, that you loved me fondly. “ You have now an opportunity to convince me that your protestations of friendship were sincere. I have a favour to beg of you, on the granting of which, the happiness of my future life in a great measure depends.” “ I was vastly surprised at this preamble, and said, “ You are perfectly sensible, my dear girl, that I would serve you, in any way, as far as it lay in my power.” — “ You will readily,” answered

“ swered she, “ allow that it is in your
 “ power to serve me at this junct-
 “ ture, when I tell you my request.—I
 “ beg of you to inform Mr. Welford,
 “ that I can never love him; and there-
 “ fore wish not to see him again.—My
 “ astonishment, at hearing this request,
 “ was as great as yours can be at present;
 “ and I cried, what has he done?— what
 “ means my Charlotte? I mean, as I
 “ say,” replied she; “ I cannot like him
 “ —I told him at his first declaration,
 “ that ’twas better to stay till we knew
 “ more of each other before we acquaint-
 “ ed our fathers with our intentions to
 “ marry—but he would not be advised;
 “ and I cannot speak to my father on this
 “ occasion; because he is so fond of the
 “ odious match. Therefore, my dearest
 “ friend, do you endeavour to see Wel-
 “ ford, and tell him all I say—Tell him,
 “ that in case my father should press me
 “ to give him my hand, he ought to refuse
 “ me; for I cannot give him my heart;
 “ I shall certainly make him miserable.—
 “ I cannot love him. I will put off my
 “ appoint-

“ appointment this evening, on purpose
 “ to give you an opportunity to impart
 “ these sentiments of mine.”

HERE the reader must call to mind that Welford, with all his good qualities, was naturally rash and credulous; otherwise we cannot well conceive how he could so easily become the dupe of Arabella's artifice. It is impossible to express what he felt at the close of this speech. He was passionately fond of Charlotte, and thought he was sincerely beloved by her. His sorrow was more violent, as it was unexpected, and deprived him of speech: but pride, in a little time came to his aid; when he reflected on the cause of it. He was stung to the quick, to be so deceived by a girl whom he took for the picture of innocence: but after the first emotions were over, resentment succeeded. He stood a while to recollect his scatter'd thoughts, then bowing to Miss Seward, coolly said, “ Your friend and I, Madam, “ are both obliged to you. Tell her, if “ you please, that I shall no more be “ troublesome to her.”

He

He was going out of the room, after these words, but Bell, who wanted to detain him, partly thro' fear that she had not said enough to prevent a re-union; if he should calmly consider of the affair, stopped him. "Hold, Sir," cried she, "pray stay one moment.—I sincerely pity your situation, and am well assured you merit better treatment. Charlotte is an unkind, unthinking, ungrateful girl. This single action has lessen'd her as much in my esteem as your manly resolution to give her up has rais'd you in it. Yet (though I do it with reluctance) I must deliver all I was entrusted with, as your peace of mind is concern'd. She is very apprehensive, that either her father, or your father, or perhaps both, may seek you, in order to bring about a reconciliation, to which she can by no means consent. Think therefore, Sir, of what is to be done, for your own quiet; and let me hear from you, for I promise to be your faithful friend." To this he made no answer, but took his leave respectfully, and hurried away as fast as he could.

WHEN

WHEN he was got into the street, he scarce knew from whence he came, or whither he was going ; but recovering from his confusion he began to ask himself what could be the occasion of this sudden change in Charlotte ; and whether he had said or done any thing to offend her. “ I cannot,” said he, “ recollect
 “ any thing in my behaviour to her, from
 “ whence she could takethis hasty aversion.
 “ May it not be owing to a rival ? I know
 “ of none. Perhaps the young fellows who
 “ followed her from the play (and who
 “ first gave birth to the discovery of my
 “ passion) have found her out. But then
 “ I have been of late so constantly with
 “ her, that I must have seen, or heard
 “ something of them.”

At last Read was suspected. He had observed that Charlotte had been for some time before her last declaration, uncommonly obliging to that gentleman. This behaviour of hers, therefore, confirm'd his suspicions ; and he resolv'd, in the first moments of passion, to challenge him. But he soon rejected so extravagant a
 thought,

thought, and afterwards wonder'd how it could ever come into his head. " Shall I, said he, " seek to destroy a fellow-creature, or give him a chance of destroying me, for the sake of a fickle girl ? " No, I will rather shun all connexions with the sex, and not trust another woman, since one whom I thought the loveliest, has proved so causelessly unfaithful." Here the remembrance of all Charlotte's perfections, all her little tenderness, return'd with double force ; He sigh'd, nay wept : for, in spite of all the wrongs he had receiv'd, a gentle tear of sensibility stole down his manly cheeks. he was ashamed of this weakness : " Shall I," said he, " be thus melted with grief, while the ungenerous creature who excites it, perhaps laughs at my past fondness ? — But I will not upbraid her. — Contempt is the best punishment for inconstancy.—Should there be any remains of affection lurking in my heart, time and absence may, perhaps, at length, eradicate them."

He

HE went home, and order'd his servant not to admit any person belonging to the Byersley family. He then tried to compose his thoughts, that he might reflect on what would be most prudent for him to do. Many schemes were stated, and as often rejected. At last, he came to a resolution to visit foreign parts; as new countries, customs and inhabitants might, he hoped, banish the ill-behaving Charlotte from his memory.

HIS father was expected in town the day following: in order, therefore, to put his designs in execution as soon as possible, he set out early in the morning to meet him upon the road.

WE must now give some account of Arabella. This lady had (during the above transaction) many fears (those constant attendants on guilt) lest Welford's heart should relent, and he should make an effort to see Charlotte, from a desire to learn the cause of so sudden a change in her inclinations, from her own lips. She there-

therefore, ordered a servant, on whose fidelity she could depend, to watch his motions, and bring her an exact account of them. The fellow obey'd her punctually ; waited near an hour within sight of Welford's lodgings, but finding all quiet, he returned to his lady ; who, impatient to know how Charlotte bore her lover's absence, slept to her after supper. As she and her father were us'd to see Bell at all hours, they were not surpris'd at her late visit : but Bell herself affected to be so on entering the room, and cried, " Where's Mr. Welford ? I expected to have found him here ; how long has he been gone ?—" He has not been here," said Mr. Byersley. " And so my poor Charlottee is in the dumps ;" replied she, (perceiving her to be more serious than usual) " indeed I concluded he was here ; but my dear," continued she, " I have met with a monstrous dis-
 " appointment ; those odious people who
 " spoil'd our snug party, never came ; so
 " that I have sat by myself till I am abso-
 " lutely vapour'd." " I am sorry for it,"
 said

said Charlotte, gravely. "But my dear," returned Bell, "you are much worse than I; perhaps some particular engagement has kept Welford at home. I sent very early in the evening, both to him and Read, to let them know how unlucky I was, and imagined that the former would immediately come here." " 'Twas natural to suppose so," answer'd Charlotte: "Mr. Read has been here, and told us he receiv'd your message between five and six o'clock. I am only afraid that Mr. Welford is ill, or has met with some accident.—Did your servant find him at home?" "I can't tell," said Bell; for I did not ask him, "as my message requir'd no answer." Charlotte's fears were then confirm'd, and she grew so uneasy that her father proposed to send to him directly; but she, thinking it would appear a ridiculous piece of fondness, if nothing should be the matter, begg'd him not to send.—Bell then wished them a good night, and desired Charlotte to make herself easy; for that

he

he would certainly be with her at breakfast, the next morning.

WELFORD, having order'd his horses to be ready very early in the morning, went soon to bed ; but his eyes were scarcely closed when the idea of Charlotte, lovely and faithless as she was, haunted his imagination. He could not reconcile the last step she had taken, with her former conduct, nor the goodness of her heart ; of both which he had ever entertain'd an high opinion. He concluded, at length, that some other lover had fallen in her way, and alienated her affections : and therefore began to think he could never have been happy with a woman of so wavering a disposition.

WITH these sentiments he rose, and set out for the inn, at which he knew his father must dine in his way to London.

NEITHER Charlotte nor Bell could enjoy more rest than he did ; the first being kept awake by her anxiety about him ;

the latter, by pondering what she must do farther to prevent a detection of her treachery, which she much fear'd, either from Charlotte, or her father's eagerness to see Welford, or the servant's tattling. She therefore wrote the following letter to him.

To Mr. WELFORD, junior.

“ Sir,

“ I HAVE been at Mr. Byersley's. He
 “ is so uneasy at your absence, that
 “ he resolves to find you out, if possible,
 “ and come to an eclaircissement about
 “ Charlotte; and she is afraid that this
 “ resolution will bring you back, and
 “ that her father will insist upon her be-
 “ ing married to you: the thoughts of
 “ which she can't bear. The whole house is
 “ in the utmost confusion, and every body
 “ imagines that you have forsaken her.
 “ Charlotte encourages them to imagine
 “ so, in order to screen herself from her
 “ father's anger. This unaccountable be-
 “ haviour

“ haviour of her’s must certainly be owing
 “ to a secret attachment elsewhere ; tho’ I
 “ could never sift the truth out of her ;
 “ I blame her excessively, and will use
 “ my best endeavours to bring about a
 “ reconciliation. In the mean time, I
 “ should be glad to see you, or hear from
 “ you, and remain

“ Your faithful friend,

“ ARABELLA SEWARD.”

This letter she sent away early in the
 morning, but Welford was not to be
 found. Bell was greatly alarmed to hear
 of his departure, and doubted not but that
 his love had got the better of his resent-
 ment, and that he and Charlotte were
 once more happy in each other’s company.
 She could not rest ’till she knew whe-
 ther her suspicions were well-grounded ;
 yet had not the effrontery to go to
 Byersly-house. She sent a servant to en-
 quire after Charlotte’s health, and to tell
 her that she would come and chat an hour

with her, if 'twas agreeable. Charlotte, like others in affliction, wished for a friend to whom she might empty her whole heart; and accordingly sent word, that she should be extremely glad of her company. Bell was re-assured by this message, and went to breakfast with her friend; but neither of them could eat any thing.

THEY waited 'till noon, in a state of suspense, and then Charlotte lost all patience, and begg'd her father to send a servant to Mr. Welford's lodgings; but he, who doated on his daughter, and pitied her disquietude, afraid lest the servant should commit some mistake, or discover any bad tidings too abruptly, said, he would go himself. Charlotte thank'd him for his kindness: Bell changed colour; and sat, no doubt, upon thorns, lest her malicious schemes should be frustrated: but both Charlotte and her father were so taken up with their own thoughts, that they could not observe the emotions of a third person.

WHEN

WHEN Mr. Byersley was gone, Bell attempted, with an air of gaiety, to comfort her companion ; but her gaiety had not the intended effect ; for she burst into tears, and had but just wiped them away when her father returned. He was surprised to see her in so despairing a condition, and told her that she had more reason to shew resentment than compassion. At these words Bell trembled, for she imagined, by Mr. Byersley's sternness, that Welford had unravel'd the whole plot, and disclosed all the transactions between them. But the tender-hearted Charlotte cried out eagerly, " Why, my dear Sir, have you then seen him ? " " Is he well ?—what do you mean ? " " I mean," replied he, " that he has not behaved to you like a man of honour. " " I enquired of his servant how he did, " and desired to speak with him ; but " was answer'd, that he set out early in " the morning, to meet his father. I " was somewhat startled at hearing this " news, thinking he might have trusted

“ us with his intentions.”—Here Charlotte interrupted her father ; — “ Perhaps, Sir, the elder Mr. Welford was taken ill on the road, and sent for him in a hurry.”—“ I ask’d that question, but the servant said, his master had not heard from him since he fixed the day following for being in town.” Charlotte was far from being satisfied with this account ; nor could she soon bring herself to believe, that her lover would have left her so long without previously coming, or writing to her, as he had seldom been half a day from the house (after the declaration) without giving her notice. Her compassionate heart throbb’d for him, when she feared he was in danger ; but this glaring neglect roused her pride, and she resolved to show, when he came next to her, that she was displeased with his indifference. Bell inwardly rejoiced at the step which Welford had taken, tho’ she blamed his conduct with vehemence ; and, after telling her with a smile that she must, notwithstanding her own amiable qualities,

ties, expect to find some faults in a lover, bid her adieu.

WELFORD had, by this time, made a great progress in his journey : — he spent all the morning in considering how he should break his mind to his father about quitting Charlotte, and going abroad. At first he intended to communicate every thing that had happen'd, without reserve ; but he could not bear, on second thoughts, the repetition of what had already given him so much disquiet : besides, he chose to make his father believe, that he had left her, not that she had left him.

OLD Welford was mightily pleased with the unexpected sight of his son : but very soon asked him jocosely, how he could leave his mistress ? “ I remember, Jack, said he, when I was a young fellow, I thought a day's absence before marriage as tedious as a month afterwards.” “ I was of your opinion,” answered his son ; “ the shortest absence
D 4 “ seemed

“ seemed intolerable ; but—times are
 “ chang’d—Since I saw you last, I have
 “ found out several particularities in Miss
 “ Byersley, which I can never like in a
 “ wife : and am therefore resolved to
 “ withdraw my addresses. I am also re-
 “ solved, if you have no objection, to set
 “ out for France to-morrow morning.
 “ You will not, I flatter myself, oppose
 “ the first of these resolutions, as the lady
 “ was not of your own seeking ; nor the
 “ last, because you had often hinted that
 “ I should make a foreign tour, before
 “ I saw her.”—“ Very true, very true,”
 said the old gentleman ; “ but why all
 “ this prodigious hurry, Jack ? To be
 “ sure, if you don’t like the girl, you
 “ would be a fool to marry her—but why
 “ must you fly your country for one dis-
 “ appointment in love.—I warrant there
 “ are women enough to be had in old
 “ England.—I don’t feel the least pro-
 “ pensity to enter into the marriage-
 “ state at present,” replied he ; “ I had
 “ much rather, Sir, pursue your first design
 “ for

“ for me.”——“ Well, well,” said his father, “ please your self, and you please me.—But have you so intirely quarrell’d with Mr. Byersley’s family ? ”——
 “ I have not mention’d this affair to him, Sir,” answered he, “ because I know he is much fonder of the match than his daughter is ; I chuse to keep out of his way, and beg that you also would avoid him.”——“ Why, I shall not like to be teased about these love-matters by any of the family,” said the old gentleman ; “ so if you stick to your text, and purpose to leave me so soon, I shall return in a few days to Yorkshire, where I am wanted just now : and indeed, I came to town purely on your account.” Young Welford thanked his father for complying so readily with his request, and they both arrived at their lodgings in the evening.

BUT how great was young Welford’s surprize to find a letter from Miss Seaward. At first he flatter’d himself with

hopes that Charlotte had entertain'd sentiments in his favour ; but he soon discarded these pleasing ideas, as too delusive ; because, in that case, she would certainly have written herself. He read the letter without any new sensations ; but as he never admired Miss Seward's manners, and as she was now grown particularly disagreeable, (on account of her intimacy with Charlotte, and because she had disturbed his peace, by informing him of her inconstancy) he put a stop to the correspondence, by sending to her the following letter :

TO MISS SEWARD.

Madam,

“ **T**HAT your friend Miss Byersley
 “ may no longer be under any apprehensions on my account, I beg the
 “ favour of you to assure her that I am
 “ quite indifferent about her. Had not
 “ you reminded me by a letter, I should
 “ have

“ have forgot there was such a person in
 “ the world.—I set out to-morrow morn-
 “ ing for Dover, from whence I shall go
 “ to France, and afterwards perhaps make
 “ the tour of Europe.

“ I am, Madam,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ JOHN WELFORD.”

HE dispatched this letter early in the morning, and having given orders about his baggage, and taken leave of his father, set off for the destined place, in a post-chaise.

MRS. Jenny, Bell's maid, gave this letter to her about ten o'clock. When she had read it, she immediately formed a scheme to make it turn to her advantage. She was, however, somewhat mortified, that the man for whom she had caused all this bustle, had escaped her ; but pleasing herself with the thoughts that he

would return again as soon as he had composed himself ; and reflecting also that his letter, by her contrivance, would effectually prevent Charlotte's being reconciled to him, she huddled on her cloaths and posted away to Mr. Byersley's.—It was near twelve before she got there ; Charlotte was then struggling with her pride and her curiosity : the one forbade, the other prompted her to send after Welford.—Mr. Byersley was really vexed at Welford's behaviour, and observing his daughter's uneasiness with a paternal concern, took the opportunity of Bell's arrival, to retire. Bell then accosted her friend in these terms :

“ I AM sorry, my dear Charlotte, to
 “ see you still dejected, and am afraid I
 “ shall not contribute to raise your spirits :
 “ —besides, I have a thousand apologies
 “ to make, for interfering so much in your
 “ affairs : but indeed, my dear, I have
 “ acted all along with a good intention,
 “ tho' I have not met with the wish'd-for
 “ success.”

“ success.”—“ What do you mean, dear
 “ Bell,” cried Charlotte, “ by making
 “ apologies? — you have given no of-
 “ fence.”—“ I can’t tell,” replied she art-
 fully, “ how you may construe my beha-
 “ viour in this affair ; and for that reason
 “ am loth to impart all I know : but if
 “ you was thoroughly sensible how much
 “ I have suffer’d by my friendship to you,
 “ you would not condemn me for what I
 “ have done.”—“ Explain yourself, my
 “ dear friend,” replied Charlotte, “ I be-
 “ seech you : I cannot in the least com-
 “ prehend your meaning.”—“ You must
 “ know then,” said Bell, (pretending to be
 sorry at discovering what she came chiefly
 about) “ that I must not unburden my-
 “ self, ’till you promise to forgive me.”—
 “ You amaze me,” said Charlotte, “ but
 “ may be assured, that nothing you can
 “ say or do will ever displease me.
 “ Keep me, therefore, no longer in sus-
 “ pence.”

“ To tell you the truth, then,” said Bell, “ I have written to Welford”.——
 “ Written to Welford ?” “ Yes, my love ;
 “ I could not bear to see you so melan-
 “ cholly, and wrote a few lines when I
 “ went home, to tell him, that I thought
 “ he was too neglectful ; that you fear’d
 “ some accident had happen’d to him ;
 “ and that your health might be endan-
 “ ger’d by his unkind treatment.—I con-
 “ cluded with saying, that you was igno-
 “ rant of my writing to him, and de-
 “ fired him either to send me an imme-
 “ diate answer, or to make you easy by
 “ an immediate visit.”

“ INDEED, Bell,” said Charlotte, “ I am
 “ sorry you have wrote to him. Your
 “ friendship has carried you too far :—
 “ but excuse my impatience.—Did he
 “ send any answer ?” “ He did,” re-
 “ plied Bell ; “ I wish he had not.—But
 “ you must know it, and the sooner the
 “ better. I only intreat you not to be
 “ too

“ too much alarmed : we are all liable to
 “ rubs : I have already met with many :
 “ and you, my dear, ought not to ima-
 “ gine yourself exempt.” She then took
 Welford’s letter out of her pocket, and
 gave it to Charlotte, who fainted away
 as soon as she had read it.

BELL, though she proposed to receive
 great satisfaction from seeing Charlotte
 nettled, did not think that the letter would
 have had such a sad effect, and screamed out
 for help : upon which Mr. Byersley and
 the servants flew to her assistance. Char-
 lotte soon recovered, and desiring the ser-
 vants to leave the room, intreated Miss
 Seward to tell her father, what occasioned
 her disorder. She complied.—On giving
 the letter to him a shower of tears fell
 from Charlotte’s eyes, which greatly re-
 lieved her. Mr Byersley was astonished
 and provoked :—he threaten’d directly to
 go to Mr. Welford, and inform him how
 scandalously his son had behaved ; but
 Charlotte, catching hold of him, demanded

“ a mo-

a moment's patience. "I am very sensibly
 " affected," said she, (with streaming eyes
 and broken accents) " with Mr. Wel-
 " ford's conduct ; yet I cannot bear to
 " think of your endeavouring to recall
 " him, Sir : for, by taking such measures,
 " you must appear to his family in a very
 " mean light. Let us rather seem con-
 " tented, tho', I own, the task is difficult.
 " I am not the first of my sex whom a
 " pretended lover has dishonourably for-
 " saken, and shall therefore not be singly
 " unfortunate. There are, alas ! too
 " many girls in my situation. As for
 " my part, I shall study to be calm ; and,
 " instead of sinking under my vexations,
 " most heartily despise the perfidious au-
 " thor of them."

" My dear Charlotte," said Mr. By-
 ersley, " I am delighted to hear you talk
 " so rationally. You are certainly in the
 " right.—Passion had got the better of
 " prudence ; but I am now less ruffled,
 " and

“ and deem my self happy in having a
 “ child who can act with so much propriety under such trying circumstances.
 “ Be comforted, my dearest, (observing a
 “ fresh shower of tears) and remember,
 “ that though you have lost an unworthy
 “ lover, there yet remains an indulgent
 “ father, who loves you fondly, and will
 “ do any thing to promote the tranquillity of your mind.” Charlotte only thanked him, with a gentle motion of her head ; for her heart was so full, she could not speak. She had felt the sincerest tenderness for Welford, and could not easily divest herself of it ; but she us’d all possible means to drive him from her imagination. Bell, too, strove to divert her ; but in vain ; for she grew so ill before night, by trying to hide her anxiety, that she was forced to go to bed sooner than ordinary ; from whence she was not able to stir for some days.

In this condition she was constantly visited by Miss Seward, who seemed to be

be much concerned for her welfare. Mr. Byersley continued very uneasy, and scarce quitted his daughter's room during her confinement. He had gently rebuked Miss Seward for writing to Welford ; but as he believed she had a regard for Charlotte, he attributed the motive to her goodness, and earnestness about her happiness.

Mr. Byersley, though he highly approved of his daughter's spirit, in so readily giving up a man who had apparently treated her with so much contempt, could not be satisfied about this sudden change in him, nor the letters he had sent to Arabella, both which were, in his opinion, very mysterious. He could not help wishing for an explanation, but staid a few days, expecting to hear something of Mr. Welford senior, who would not, he thought, so far approve of his son's schemes, as to break off an intimacy which had lasted many years. After waiting several days without hearing of him, he
called

called at his lodgings, and was told, to his great surprize, that he had been in town, but was gone to reside in Yorkshire for some time.

Mr. Byersley was now as much disgusted at the father's behaviour as he had been at the son's, and resolved to trouble himself no farther about either of them, but to seek for a man more deserving of his daughter.

AT Charlotte's request, he had, from the first day, charged his servants not to mention this disagreeable affair to any body who came to the house; but to say, if they were question'd about Welford's not visiting as usual, that he was only a friend of their master's, and was set out on his travels to foreign parts. This charge was prudent. Mr. Read, as he came often to the house, and never met with Welford, enquired after the cause of his absence, and was answered much to his satisfaction; for he had now hopes of gaining Charlotte's

lotte's affections, since he had no longer a favoured rival to contend with.

CHARLOTTE, though she appeared chearful in company, could not conquer her inclination for Welford, or her grief at being so severely disappointed. All her consolation arose from pouring out her heart to Arabella, who was, by the interest she seemed to have in her affairs, more endeared to her than ever.—But she was soon deprived of that consolation.

I MUST here introduce to the reader's acquaintance a lady, who is indeed no other than the visiter already mention'd, with whom the Byersley-family and young Welford (before he declared his passion) went to the play. This lady's name was Bootle : she was the widow of a gentleman who married her for love, (being in affluent circumstances) but having a taste above them, left her barely a genteel subsistence at his death. She had been an acquaintance of Mrs. Byersley, was very entertaining, and, tho' turned of
fifty,

fifty, agreeable in her person. She was under obligations to Mr. Byersley as he had assisted her in managing her affairs when her husband died, and frequently visited his daughter, from affection, as well as gratitude.

THIS lady came every day to Charlotte during her illness, but could never receive the least hint from her about the cause of it : however, as she missed Welford, and observed an unusual dejection in her, even after her recovery, she was not long at a loss for the true reason ; and, as she had a sincere regard both for her and her father, wished to remove it. Accordingly she expressed some concern to Mr. Byersley, that his daughter's health was far from being re-establish'd, and told him, she fancied, change of air might be necessary. " You know, Sir," said she " that I have " an apartment every summer at Richmond in the house of a distant relation : " there is room for you and Miss Byersley, and I shall be extremely glad of " such good company, if neither of you " are

“ are displeased with the scheme. I dare
 “ say it will be a profitable, as well as an
 “ amusing one.”

MR. Byersley approved of her motion, thank'd her for proposing it, and said he did not believe Charlotte would have any objection to it.

HE immediately proposed it to her, and was pleased to find that she had no aversion to a Richmond-jaunt. Nothing, indeed, could have been more agreeable to her, as the season approached when her beloved Arabella used to change the town for the country, and as Mrs. Bootle's relation liv'd in her neighbourhood.

THEY were preparing for their rural excursion, when an event happen'd that gave the highest joy to Bell, but no small sorrow to Charlotte. I have already said that Miss Seward's uncle had a place under the government : as he was in great favour with the minister, he was thought a proper person to transact some important
 affair

affair abroad ; and was ordered to prepare
 for an expedition to France. This news
 Mr. Seward communicated to his niece,
 who plotted to make it turn out advan-
 tageous to herself. She knew that Wel-
 ford, for whom she had betrayed her
 friend, was there, and that she had a bet-
 ter chance for succeeding with him at a
 distance from Charlotte : besides, if her
 plots should fail, she hoped to pick up a new
 acquaintance at Paris, which would an-
 swer her purpose as well ; she was sure of
 losing nothing, at least, by change of cli-
 mate. Her coquetry had banish'd all
 her old lovers in England, and she was too
 well known by the men to expect any new
 ones worth having : in short, a tour to
 France would, in her opinion, (men out
 of the question) establish her character as
 a fine lady. She therefore intreated her
 uncle to take her with him, which he rea-
 dily agreed to do ; for he was very fond
 of her company, and wished to enjoy it,
 as he could not tell how long he might be
 detained abroad. He only begg'd her to be

no reason to doubt her veracity, was still better pleased than before, and begg'd that she would continue to be his friend. She answered him coldly, that she was going to France with her uncle, and should not attempt to influence Charlotte for him; or against him.

HE then resolv'd to communicate his thoughts to Mr. Byersley ; and accordingly waited on him at the time above-mention'd.

MR. Byersley received him with his accustomed politeness, and (as he desired) in private. " I come, Sir," said Read, " to declare to you the perfect esteem I have for your amiable daughter, to solicit your approbation of my addresses to her, and to beg that you would influence her in my favour. My character is well known, my fortune is considerable, and if I am so happy as to gain Miss Byersley's consent, the disposal of it shall be left to her."

MR. Byersley was not displeased with this offer ; for he wished, as I mention'd before, to see his daughter well married,
and

and had no objection to Read : but, being determined to leave his daughter free to chuse, he only told him, that he was obliged to him for the honour he intended him ; and that he would never force her inclinations. As this was a better answer than Read expected, he replied, “ If Miss Byersley is “ not pre-engaged, and has no aversion “ to me, I hope that time and my repeated “ assiduities will make an impression on “ her heart.” Mr. Byersley answer’d, “ I “ believe Charlotte will not engage her- “ self without my knowledge ; but we “ are now going to Richmond for a great “ part of the summer season, where I shall “ be glad to see you, whenever ’tis agree- “ able. You must not however expect “ me to bias my daughter.” Read was going to say something, but her entering the room prevented him.

As soon as Read took leave of them, Mr. Byersley related to Charlotte, all their private conversation ; and concluded with saying, that he thought him not amiss, if she could like him for a husband. “ Sir,” said Char-

lotte, " a man's being not amiss, is a poor
 " recommendation to your daughter. I
 " own I thought of being happy with
 " him whom I chose to pass the remain-
 " der of my life with ; but since I have
 " been so grossly deceived, I shall no
 " dream any more of conjugal bliss : but
 " shall be contented to pass my future
 " days in promoting your felicity."
 " But, my dear child," said he, " don't
 " you think I should be happier, if you
 " were well settled, than I am at present
 " Believe me, Charlotte, I would not wil-
 " lingly leave you friendless and solitar-
 " in the world : your sex is exposed to
 " numberless difficulties and dangers ; and
 " therefore stands in need of protection
 " who then is so proper to supply the
 " place of an indulgent father, as an indul-
 " gent husband ? " — " Dear Sir," said
 Charlotte (with her eyes bathed in tears)
 " I hope you will long be, yourself, my
 " kind protector : for the loss of so ter-
 " rible, so affectionate a parent would in-
 " deed expose me to numberless difficu-
 " ties

“ ties, and make me feel the most pierc-
 “ ing sorrow :—I cannot bear to think of
 “ it.”—“ Do not weep, my dear child ;
 “ I also hope to remain long with you ;
 “ but life is very uncertain, and we
 “ should always be prepared to resign it
 “ when summon’d by the wise disposer
 “ of all things : and how can I be so pre-
 “ pared, while the darling of my heart
 “ has no prospect of a defender after-
 “ wards ?—What will the united accom-
 “ plishments of thy person and thy mind,
 “ together with that goodness of disposi-
 “ tion, and the fortune I shall bequeath
 “ thee, avail ? But I distress thee too
 “ much. Be comforted, my dearest
 “ child ; for tho’ I wish sincerely that
 “ you was married, I wish at the same
 “ time that you was happily married,
 “ and will therefore never insist upon your
 “ taking a man whom you cannot look
 “ upon with the eyes of affection and
 “ esteem, as well as duty.”—“ Oh, Sir !”
 replied she “ you over-power me by this
 “ excess of tenderness. Let us, if you
 “ please, change the subject.”—“ So we
 E 3 “ will,”

“ will,” said he, “ for your spirits are
 “ at present too much fluttered.”

THE next day they went to Richmond, where Mrs. Bootle received them with great satisfaction. Charlotte had always been fond of the country, and would have been supremely delighted with the additional company of her beloved Arabella. In spite of all her efforts, Welford was still uppermost in her thoughts ; for, tho’ she blamed the deceiver, she loved the man, and longed to talk over the happy moments which she had enjoyed with him. As Mrs. Bootle was ignorant of the late transactions between them, and not intimate enough to be trusted with them, she had no bosom-friend but her father ; and to him she was ashamed to confess her weakness ; or to resume the subject of their last conversation in town, by mentioning Welford’s name.

THE arrival of Mr. Read, after they had been only two days at Richmond, obliged Mr. Byersley to tell his daughter
 again,

again, that he had given him leave to come, but that she was at liberty either to see or avoid him. She thanked him for his condescension to her, and said, “ I wish, Sir, I could approve of Mr. Read, because you seem to espouse his interest; but I think he is of too fickle a turn; otherwise he never would have left Miss Seward, so abruptly, for my sake.—A wavering lover will, in all probability, make an inconstant husband.—But, setting aside his behaviour to my friend, I cannot esteem him.—All men are indeed, at present, disagreeable to me, but especially Mr. Read; I therefore intreat you would dispense with my seeing him.”

As they were in the garden when the servant brought them word of Read's arrival, Charlotte took that opportunity to slip up stairs unseen. Mr. Byersley then went into the parlour, and told him he was sorry he had not informed him sooner of his daughter's resolution. “ She has declared,” said he, “ that she cannot

“ receive your addressee, and begs you
 “ would excuse her not coming down.”

READ, who, from the reception Mr. Byersley had given him in town, came flush'd with the hopes of gaining Charlotte's affections, was thunder-struck at her refusal.—After a few compliments, he withdrew, repeatedly declaring, that if his daughter could be prevailed on to admit his addressee, he should be the happiest man in the world.

WHEN Charlotte came down, she returned her father a thousand thanks for complying with her desires, and to show her gratitude, appear'd uncommonly chearful. Mr. Byersley was charm'd at the renewal of her vivacity, and did every thing in his power to encourage it; and, with the assistance of Mrs. Bootle, who was herself very much disposed to be chearful, they passed several weeks in mutual satisfaction: sometimes they rode about the environs, and sometimes walked in the public gardens. The latter exercise they enjoyed most frequently.

ONE morning the two ladies happened to go, without Mr. Byersley to the gardens. After rambling longer than usual, they sat down in one of the temples. When they were sufficiently refreshed, they rose to saunter homewards, and had passed thro' one of the walks before Mrs. Bootle missed her snuff-box. They turned back immediately ; but before they came to the bench, on which they hoped to find it, a sprightly young gentleman accosted them, and bowing to Charlotte, in a very gallant manner, presented the box to her. " Madam," said he, " I just now found this box on one of the seats in that temple (pointing to it) and if it belongs to you, think myself lucky in having an opportunity to restore it to the right owner." " This lady," replied Charlotte, missed it not long since." She then gave it to Mrs. Bootle, who thanked him for his politeness ; and both courtseying, they were going to strike into another walk, when the gentleman thus addressed them :

E 5

" I

“ I HOPE, ladies, you will not think
 “ me impertinent, if I accompany you. I
 “ am a perfect stranger here, and such
 “ agreeable guides would considerably in-
 “ crease the pleasantness of the place.”

As he spoke these words with a degagée
 air, and had the appearance of a man of
 fashion, Mrs. Bootle answered with a
 smile ; “ You would not be a great win-
 “ ner, if your request was granted ; for
 “ we have already wearied ourselves in
 “ the gardens, and are going to leave
 “ them.”

“ I PRESUME, Madam,” said he, look-
 ing at Charlotte, as if he wished that she
 would answer him, “ from the little know-
 “ ledge I have of this place, that you
 “ cannot have the heart to quit it so haf-
 “ tily. I shall be very forlorn when you
 “ are gone ; and therefore, hope you will,
 “ at least, permit me to attend you to
 “ one of the doors—and a great deal far-
 “ ther,” (bowing very low) “ if you will
 “ forgive my intrusion.” — “ But, sup-
 “ pose

“ pose we don’t forgive your intrusion?” said Mrs. Bootle, (who wanted to keep up the conversation, as she afterwards declared, to see how he would acquit himself.) “ Why, Madam,” replied he, “ if you don’t absolutely forbid me (and I am not apprehensive of so terrible a word) custom, you know, has authorised us to judge very favourably of a lady’s silence in these cases.” “ The men always take care,” answered she, “ to interpret every thing to their own advantage ; but my companion must not be neuter in this affair,” (turning to Charlotte) “ and without her approbation, I positively forbid you to go a step farther.” The gentleman, who wanted to engage Charlotte in conversation, was so charmed with Mrs. Bootle, because she seemed to favour his designs, that he could not hide his joy. “ I am infinitely obliged to you, Madam,” said he, “ for referring the decision of my fate to this lady, (looking at Charlotte) “ who will not, I flatter myself, be

“ less merciful to me than you have
 “ been.—There is so much sweetness in
 “ her aspect, that I cannot fear her dis-
 “ pleasure.” Charlotte, who now hated
 the addresses of all men, and would have
 been glad to get rid of the stranger, re-
 plied, with a look full of indifference,
 “ Appearances are very deceitful, and we
 “ desire no addition to our company.”
 “ ‘Egad, Madam,’ returned he briskly,
 “ I am entirely of your opinion; for two
 “ ladies and a young fellow are the pret-
 “ tiest party in the universe: and since
 “ we are so happily grouped together,
 “ ’tis a pity we should be so soon divided.
 “ —Let me therefore prevail on you,”
 (continued he, in the most insinuating
 manner to Charlotte, and offering to seize
 her hand) “ to prolong my felicity, by
 “ taking another turn:” but she beginning
 to think he was too free, said, “ We
 “ have told you already, Sir, that we
 “ were going to quit the gardens, and
 “ cannot help being surprized at your at-
 “ tempts to detain us.”

HE

He thought, at first, that Charlotte was only affectedly coy, but now perceived that she was really vexed ; and that his person and address had not made the impression on her, which they seldom had fail'd to do on most of her sex : however, as 'twas his maxim never to despond, he hoped for more success with Mrs. Bootle, and therefore paid all his respects to her for a while, as she seemed not averse either to his figure or behaviour. “ I would not presume, ladies, to detain you against your inclinations,” said he ; “ but since I am so unfortunate as not to be able to keep you by all the rhetoric I am master of, may I hope, Madam,” (addressing himself to Mrs. Bootle) “ to find you here again ? and may I also beg that it may be to-morrow at the same hour ?—Don't refuse me every kind of consolation” added he, gently pressing her hand.

Mrs. Bootle observing that Charlotte was impatient to be at home, and disliking

liking the excessive liberties he took, withdrew her hand, though he seemed unwilling to part with it, and said gravely to him, " We never make assignations with strangers; so, Sir, I wish you a good morning." They then left him to ruminate on these words, and tripp'd away to their lodgings as nimbly as they could.

THE man of gallantry stood a while in suspense, whether he should follow them, or trust to chance for another interview; but, conceiving some hopes that he should have a great deal of sport with his new game, he retired to a bench, and there consider'd what methods were most likely to forward his designs upon Charlotte, whose face he recollected to be the same he had seen at the play with Welford. He had indeed enquired particularly after her family, character and fortune: but, being inform'd that a treaty of marriage was on foot between them, he thought no more of her at that time: but when he came to Richmond, his servant, one day, acciden-

accidentally met Mr. Byersley's, and asked him if his young lady was married? to which he answered, "No, nor likely to be." This news his servant instantly brought to him, with the person's name at whose house they lodged; and he was actually forming a scheme to become acquainted with her when the above adventure happened.

I MUST now give the reader some account of this immense fine gentleman, who proved to be a wild, hot-headed baronet.

SIR George Ayres was young, lively and handsome, with good natural talents: he had had a liberal education, but falling in with a set of libertines, and women of the town (who were fond of his external accomplishments) he soon learn'd to practise all the fashionable vices, without thinking of the consequences, and to boast of them afterwards without a blush. He was a great admirer of the fair sex, but by conversing chiefly with the most abandon'd

bandon'd part of it, had imbibed a vulgar error, " that no woman can resist the importunities of a man she likes."—As he was vain enough to think himself irresistibly charming, and had met with few rebuffs in his amours ; his assurance was not to be conquered.—He had contracted an irreconcilable hatred to matrimony ; and therefore, as soon as he beheld the beauties of Charlotte's person, he laid a plan for the demolition of her virtue.

WHILE Sir George was meditating so much mischief, Mrs. Bootle and Charlotte redoubled their pace, for fear he should pursue them ; the former all the way telling the latter what a conquest she had gained : but Charlotte was far from being elevated with the thoughts of it, and declared that she never saw a more disagreeable man. — " Nay, Miss Byerley," said she, " he is certainly a very pretty fellow.—I am sure he is vastly charm'd with you, and I doubt not but you will be better reconciled to him in time ; you cannot, I suppose, have

“ have a thorough disgust already.—Upon
 “ my word he appears quite like a man
 “ of fashion ; and if a match should be
 “ brought about from this day’s adven-
 “ ture, I shall, without jesting, expect a
 “ a handsome present : for had I not
 “ been a careless creature, and lost my
 “ box, we might perhaps never have
 “ seen him.”

IN this jocular humour they came home, and diverted Mr. Byersley with their rencontre, but both resolved not to visit the gardens for several days. Sir George, on the contrary, spent almost his whole time there, in hopes of seeing them, but to no purpose : at length his patience began to be exhausted, and he thought of taking other measures.

SIR George had a servant who always assisted him to execute his intriguing schemes with great fidelity : to him he communicated this new one, and desired him to plot well for him ; “ For,” said he, “ I must have Charlotte at any rate.”

“ I sup-

“ I suppose, Sir,” answered John,
 “ honour would chuse to try gentle
 “ first.”—“ I care not what means,”
 he, “ only let them be quick and
 “ Suppose, Sir, you should write.—
 “ I believe I can persuade Miss By
 “ servant to deliver a letter privat
 “ your honour has often succeede
 “ way.”—“ Ay, ay,” said Sir C
 “ but she is the shyest little c
 “ ever met with : and I expect t
 “ a confounded deal of trouble wi
 “ virtue.—But if I gain her a
 “ she will amply reward all my
 He then ordered John to go and
 tiate himself with Miss Byerly’s f
 while he wrote.

He sat down, and in all the
 tonness of imagination sketch
billetdoux, which was, in his ow
opinion, sufficient to raise tender e
 in any girl in Christendom. I
 just seal’d it, when John returned a
 “ If you have a mind, Sir, to m
 “ your new mistress, now is yo

“ —She and her companion, are gone
 “ into the gardens : I saw them at the
 “ very door, and ran away directly to let
 “ you know.”

SIR George made haste to overtake them, and coming behind them unawares, accosted them with the utmost familiarity. As there was nothing exceptionable in him but his immoderate assurance, they answer'd him civilly, but more coolly than before. He kept close, however, to Charlotte's side, and as soon as she turned her head towards him, offer'd his letter. She was both surprized and displeased at this freedom ; but, soon recollecting herself, declined accepting it, aloud, with a scornful look.—He prest her with more eagerness, and by that means occasioned a more vehement refusal. He was then piqued at her treatment of him, put the letter carelessly into his pocket, turn'd on his heel, and staring full in her face, repeated, with a contemptuous sneer, those lines in the Orphan :

“ Who'd

“ Who’d be that foolish, fordid thing,
call’d man,

“ To cringe thus, fawn and flatter, &c.”

He then addressed himself to Mrs. Bootle, and began to rally the sex in general for their cruelty: but she, having strictly observed his whole behaviour, and finding that Charlotte was very uneasy, left him abruptly. They both quitted the gardens with a resolution not to visit them again during their stay at Richmond.

SIR George staid not long after them, but went home, called for John, curs’d Charlotte’s pride, gave both her and himself to the devil, and vowed to be revenged on the coy prude, whatever might be the consequence.

AFTER a long consultation, they hatch’d a scheme, which was to be put in execution, as soon as they could find a lucky minute.

SIR George, on the following day dispatched his servant to London (for he was detain'd himself at Richmond by the illness of a wealthy old uncle, whose fortune he expected) in order to procure a house, convenient for the reception of his prey. John return'd, and gave a satisfactory account of his negotiations.—They only waited then for Mr. Byersley's going to town, as he frequently did, in the middle of the week. They very soon learn'd that Mr. Byersley was actually going to stay three days, and agreed therefore to hazard their villainous project on the second day.—In pursuance of their scheme, Sir George went to the place of rendezvous, and John waited to carry off the lady.

MRS. Bootle had often intreated Charlotte to go with her to visit an agreeable family at Petersham. But she as constantly desired to be excused. And Mrs. Bootle, rather than leave her alone, often deprived herself of a great deal of pleasure,

sure, by staying away. In the very afternoon Sir George fix'd upon, a card was deliver'd from the family at Peterham, which contain'd so pressing an invitation, that she shewed it to Charlotte, in order to induce her to accompany her. But the attempt was vain; for she said she was unfit for company that afternoon, and insisted on her friend's going without her. Mrs. Bootle refused so long, meerly out of complaisance, that Charlotte resolv'd to make her go, where she knew her inclination led her, and told the servant herself that Mrs. Bootle would wait on the ladies. Then turning to her, said, " You must go now, for I have promised you will."

SHE left her unwillingly, and had not been gone an hour, when a message came from Mr. Byersley, intimating that he had been taken dangerously ill upon the road, and under a necessity of being carried into a house before he could reach his own, and earnestly desired to see his daughter.

CHAR-

CHARLOTTE, frighten'd at this unexpected news, order'd the coach to be got ready without loss of time; but the messenger telling her he had brought one by her father's order, she threw herself into it, directly: and, he jumping up behind, they proceeded towards London as fast as the horses could draw them.

THEY arrived in town, in the dusk of the evening; but had it been lighter, Charlotte's eyes were too much blinded by tears, to distinguish any object about her.—At last the coach stopped—and she was conducted into a back-room, on a first floor in a decent-looking house: where the first person she saw was Sir George Ayres. Though she was alarmed at the sight of him, she did not immediately suspect his treachery, but eagerly intreated him to carry her to her father.—“He is not here, nor ever has been, Madam,” said Sir George.—“That story I invented, in order to enjoy your company alone.”—“Good heavens!” cried Charlotte, staring wildly, (for she began to have

have some notion of her danger) “to what
 “am I destined?” — “To the greatest
 “happiness, my angel!” (replied he, clasp-
 ing her to his breast) “which you shall
 “experience in these fond arms.”——

“Stand off, Sir,” said she, disengaging
 herself from his grasp, and endeavouring
 to recover her spirits.—“What could have
 “induced you to treat me in this man-
 “ner?—But no matter;—I will not stay
 “to be insulted.” She ran to the door,
 and finding it bolted, screamed so vio-
 lently, that a gentleman, (luckily coming
 down from the second floor) rapp’d at it,
 and demanded the cause of that screaming.

“Oh Sir,,’ cried Charlotte, whoever you
 “are, make haste and save me from the
 “worst of men. I am confined here by
 “him for the most shocking purpose.”

The person without, could hear no more,
 for Sir George sternly bade him retire,
 telling him he was with his wife, who
 wanted to escape from him. “Say you
 “so, Sir George,” answered the other,
 “I did not know you was married; but

“ I

“ I must beg leave to have one peep at
 “ your lady. Indeed I am not his wife, in-
 “ deed I am not,” cried Charlotte ; “ but
 “ have been decoyed hither against my
 “ inclination, and will amply reward my
 “ generous deliverer, whoever he is.”

No answer being made, Charlotte began to despair—her spirits sunk, her strength fail’d, and she swooned away in her seducer’s arms; who, finding he was known, and not chusing this adventure should afford town-talk, was striving to revive her, when the person who had rapt at the door, return’d with a posse to her relief. The noise they made at the door to force it open, roused Charlotte from her fit. As soon as she lifted up her eyes, she saw her deliverer, who ran instantly to support her, for Sir George had left her to enquire into the reason of such an uproar.—He was somewhat disconcerted to find the author of it an old acquaintance, whose honour and courage were indisputable ; but not caring to endanger his person on so trivial an occasion, as he termed it, he attempted to rally his

antagonist out of his good intentions. His attempt, however, was vain ; for, looking upon the lady as an unhappy victim, whom he ought to protect, he assured her, that he would defend her at the expence of his life.

“ PRITHEE, Frankly,” cried Sir George, “ don’t be impertinent,—you would not like to be serv’d so yourself.—’Tis a strange thing that a man can’t have a girl in a corner, but half the town must be rais’d upon him.” “ Sir George,” replied Frankly, “ you are not acting at present the part of a gentleman. You have deceiv’d and frighten’d this lady (pointing to her) who has put herself under my protection, and I’ll take care she shall not be disappointed.”

“ SIR,” returned the Baronet, “ you may, perhaps, be sorry hereafter, for having troubled yourself about my affairs.” Frankly was going to reply ; but Charlotte, who dreaded the consequences of the altercation between them, besought him so earnestly to conduct her to her father,

father, that he led her down stairs directly, order'd a coach to be called, and bad the fellow drive as quick as possible to Mr. Byersley's.

WHILE they were in the coach, Charlotte told him every particular relating to Sir George's behaviour, and finished her narrative with repeated thank to him, for so generously interfering in her behalf. "I am very fortunate," Madam, said he, "in having been of service to you ; but you are under no particular obligations to me ; for I have done no more than my duty." A man of true honour and humanity will always hazard his life in the cause of distressed innocence.

WHEN they arrived at Mr. Byersley's, he was just come home, and very much surpris'd to see his daughter (who he thought was at Richmond) led into the room by a very agreeable young gentleman, whom he had never seen before. Charlotte immediately ran to him, and

said, “ Oh, my dear papa !—how much
 “ am I rejoiced to see you again.—I have
 “ been sadly frightened ;—but this gentle-
 “ man — to him you owe your daugh-
 “ ter.”—She could utter no more. The
 violent agitation of her spirits, was too
 much for her tender frame to bear ; and
 she would have fainted a second time,
 had not a shower of tears very seasonably
 relieved her. Mr. Byersley pressed her
 fondly in his arms, and desiring the stran-
 ger to be seated, told him, he would add
 greatly to the obligations he was under
 to him, by relating the cause of his
 daughter’s unexpected return to town :
 “ For the poor girl,” said he, “ is at
 “ present incapable of telling me herself.”
 Mr. Frankly then related all that had
 past, and Charlotte confirmed the truth
 of it. Both the father and daughter ex-
 pressed their gratitude in the strongest
 terms. “ But let me not,” said the for-
 “ mer, be ignorant of the man’s name
 “ who has preserved my child.”—“ My
 “ name, Sir, is Frankly ; and if you will
 “ give

“ give me leave to make my self better known to you, I shall think this event a very fortunate one : it has already proved so, indeed, by introducing me to so worthy a family.” Mr. Byersley answered him with a bow, and assured him he should always find a hearty welcome at his house. Frankly then wished them a good night.

BUT to return to Richmond :

Miss Byersley's maid, after the coach was driven from the door, began to think that she should not have suffered her mistress to go at so late an hour by herself : but, tho' she could not prevent what was past, she was in hopes that Mrs. Bootle might be prevail'd upon to endeavour to overtake her. To Mrs. Bootle therefore she sent directly, who came as soon as she could, not knowing, however, at first, what to do, so great was her surprize. She proposed to dispatch a man and horse, but the maid could not tell, to what house her master had been carried.

Mrs. Bootle was extremely uneasy, because Mr. Byersley had left his daughter to her care: and because her youth and beauty might be exposed to a thousand dangers. In short, she was distracted with apprehensions, and never closed her eyes all night.—In the morning she set out to London, in the first coach she could hire, and arrived at Mr. Byersley's about noon, where she was greatly surprised to find both him and Charlotte in good health, and eager to see her.

END of the First Book.

CHIT CHAT, &c.

BOOK the SECOND.

SIR George Aýres, tho' he was excessively chagrin'd at his disappointment, was more charmed with Charlotte than ever. Her behaviour (libertine as he was) touched him, and he could not help acknowledging the justness of it.—“ How amiable a creature she is ! ” said he, “ I never believed, till this moment, that there was such a being in the world as a woman strictly virtuous; opportunity and importunity, I thought, were enough to thaw the iciness of a vestal, but 'tis evident that

“ she can withstand them, or she never
 “ could have resisted my solicitations.”

He reflected on his late conduct with unusual thoughtfulness, and was convinc'd that, if he ever married, he could never find so good, as well as so fine a woman for a wife ; neither her fortune nor family being despicable, tho' not equal to his own : he therefore, after some struggles of conscience, determined to make honourable addresses, not having the least notion that any woman could refuse a man of his rank, figure and estate. He rose in this humours ; yet curs'd Frankly a thousand times for interrupting him : “ If that fellow,” said he, “ had not refused the girl, she would have been, “ e're now, at my feet ; instead of which “ I must go to hers.” Here pride, and the looseness of his disposition checked his matrimonial resolves. He could not bear the thoughts of giving up his liberty for ever ; but Charlotte's unaffected sweetness was still so powerful, that he could
 not

not resolve to let her absolutely escape him.—In short, he wrote a letter to her father, in which he begged to receive her from his hands, and inclosed a few submissive lines to herself.—“ Can I but gain “ her heart,” said he, “ on any terms, “ I shall be easy—I must be revenged on “ that dog Frankly, tho’—yet I will not “ fight—no, not for a Gunning.

Sir George’s letter arrived at Mr. Byersley’s soon after Frankly, who came to know how Charlotte had slept after her fright. As Mr. Byersley was not acquainted with the hand-writing he hastily broke the seals, and after a hasty perusal, read it aloud : he then presented the inclosed to his daughter, who returned it unopen’d ; Frankly was highly pleas’d with the manner of her returning it, and could not but smile at the baronet’s serious proposals. “ Indeed, Madam,” said he to her, “ you have an uncommon influence over Sir George. Few ladies “ have power enough to reclaim so abandoned a libertine.”—“ I can never per-

“ suade my self,” replied she, “ that I
 “ have so much power ; nor do I think it
 “ safe to make the tryal.”

MR. Byersley hesitated a little, whether
 he should send a written or a verbal an-
 swer ; but fearing that the latter might be
 misconstrued, he called for a pen and ink,
 and wrote the following lines :

To Sir GEORGE AYRES, Bart.

“ Sir,
 “ **A**FTER the treatment my daughter
 “ has received from you, I am sur-
 “ prised that you can think of her being
 “ reconciled.—You must also have a very
 “ mean opinion of me to suppose—but I
 “ will not waste time. Your visits to a fa-
 “ mily whom you have so much injured,
 “ can never be agreeable, and will there-
 “ fore never be admitted.

“ R. BYERSLEY.”

HE read this to the company, and re-
 ceiving their approbation, sent it away
 directly.

THE

THE messenger did not find Sir George in the same humour he left him in. He had contemplated on matrimony over and over, and began not to relish the thoughts of it. He repented of his rashness, and wished he had taken some other method to cure his passion.—But there was another reason for this change in so short a time :

As soon as he had dispatched his letter to Mr. Byersley, his trusty purveyor John, came to inform him that he had just got scent of a special fine girl, as handsome as Charlotte, and more come-at-able; and to be had at a reasonable price. Sir George, charm'd with the prospect of a new amour, rewarded his pimp well, and had sent him with a commission to secure her, when the answer to his letter came. He humm'd it over carelessly, damn'd the whole family, and threw it into the fire. He was indeed stung at the refusal, and at first thought of cutting their throats ; but a new mistress banish'd every thing else from his imagination.

Mrs. Bootle, as her friends had regained their usual peace and tranquillity, set out for Richmond, to spend the remainder of the season; but promised to make frequent trips to town, because Charlotte earnestly desired, not to return with her.

CHARLOTTE now began to wonder that she had not heard from Arabella, to whom she long'd to communicate every thing she had met with, since her departure for France. She also wished to know whether Bell had seen Welford at Paris; but resolved not to write about him. In a few days the so much wish'd-for letter came, but gave little satisfaction: for it was very short, and contained nothing relating to her lover.

TO MISS CHARLOTTE BYERSLEY.

“ Dear Charlotte, Paris,——

“ I Have a thousand apologies to make
 “ for not writing to you before; but I
 “ hope you will excuse my negligence.—
 “ In short I have been so eternally en-
 “ gaged in parties of pleasure, that I have
 “ not

“ not had the least opportunity to scrib-
 “ ble.—Well—Paris is a most heavenly
 “ place.—I wish you would come and
 “ frolic among us. — You can’t think
 “ what a charming set of companions I
 “ have pick’d up here; and how happy-
 “ ly I live.—Write soon, my dear girl,
 “ and believe me to be

“ Your sincere friend,

“ ARABELLA SEWARD.”

IN this trifling manner did Bell write to her friend. She had not indeed seen Welford, but knew where he was : for he had set out for Rome a little before her arrival.

SOME girls of a certain spirit would have thought the above letter a very unkind one, and have been apt to doubt the sincerity of the writer’s friendship; but Charlotte was so infatuated with Arabella, and her simplicity of heart was such that she could see no fault in her, and firmly believed that want of time, not want of inclination, was the cause of so short and so trifling an epistle.

FRANKLY

FRANKLY was by this time very intimate with Mr. Byersley and Charlotte.—He was young, gay, easy, and agreeable, and would have been entitled to their esteem, without those recommendations, for his generous behaviour. Charlotte, tho' she still retain'd the same affection for Welford, and was indifferent to Frankly, could not help being prepossessed in favour of the latter, on account of his past services, and the amiableness of his manners. If her heart had been entirely disengaged, he would perhaps have gain'd it; but as it was not, she felt only a brotherly regard for him, and treated him with a suitable familiarity. But he felt a different sentiment—As his heart was free from any attachment, he could not behold and converse with such a woman a Charlotte, without more than brotherly emotions: finding, however, that her esteem arose merely from gratitude, and that she had a great aversion to marriage, he forbore making any declaration, till he could see a change in his favour. He lived in hopes
that

that time and the frequent opportunities he had of being with her, would ripen her esteem into love. Mr. Byersley too, having enquired into his character and fortune, and found them both unexceptionable, hoped that Charlotte would one day look upon him with the eyes of affection.

DURING these transactions at London, Miss Seward coquetted with all the English gentlemen at Paris, and enter'd fully into the spirit of the place. Among those who professed to be her admirers, there was a young baronet whose person and address were very engaging, and whom she particularly encouraged. But before I delineate his character, 'tis necessary to inform the reader that Mr. Seward died soon after his arrival at Paris, and left the greatest part of his fortune to his niece.

SIR Francis Tyers's estate, was not, when he came to the possession of it, suitable to his title ; but he had render'd it much less so by rioting and extravagance. His creditors, at last, grew so clamorous, and
the

To this letter of Charlotte's, Bell return'd no answer. She was therefore both surpriz'd and concern'd to read of Mr. Seward's death in the public papers : but when the news was confirm'd, she wrote a letter of condolence, and begg'd to know when her friend intended to set out for England. Bell cast her eyes over it with a careless air, and flung it into her dressing-box, as a bagatelle not worth a woman of fashion's regarding.

DURING Bell's preparations in France, Charlotte by degrees recovered her natural chearfulness.—Her father procured all the amusements he could for her ; she was very happy in Mrs. Bootle's friendship, and Frankly made it his study to oblige her.

FRANKLY had now been intimate with the family near half a year. As he took care not to appear like a lover, lest he should be deprived of the familiarity with which Charlotte indulged him, she grew every

every day less reserved. This alteration in her behaviour very much rejoiced her father, and encouraged Frankly to hope it was possible to cure her insensibility. An open declaration would, he knew, banish him for ever from her society, even if she approved of it ; and he chose rather to be treated like a brother than run the risque of not seeing her at all. He saw Mr. Byersley was pleased with him, and would often, to ingratiate himself still more, consult him about his own private affairs : “ As I have lately lost one father,” he would say, “ I must try to get another ; and I know not any body else, on whose judgment and candour I may so safely depend.”

Thus would he often talk before Charlotte ; but she only considered him as a rallier, and was rather pleased than offended with his speeches. One day he came abruptly into the room, where she was sitting alone, and said, “ I should be glad to see Mr. Byersley ; for I want to talk
“ with

“ with him about particular business.—
 “ My papa is just gone out,” replied she,
 “ but if you can’t stay ’till he returns, and
 “ will trust me with it, I’ll relate it to
 “ him as well as I am able, when he
 “ comes home.” “ You are always ve-
 “ ry obliging, Miss Byersley,” said he,
 “ but I want his advice about a law suit,
 “ and it would be unpolite to trouble you
 “ with such crabbed stuff.—I am, indeed,
 “ almost ashamed to ask your father’s
 “ opinion, but he has often desired me
 “ to apply to him with as little ceremony
 “ as if I were his own son.” “ And, I
 “ am sure, Sir,” replied Charlotte, “ he
 “ will take as much pleasure in assisting
 “ you with his advice, as if he were
 “ really your father.”

FRANKLY, though he was, at the be-
 ginning of this dialogue, far from intend-
 ing to reveal his passion, could not let
 slip the opportunity which Charlotte so
 innocently gave him, and after some he-
 sitation, he said with great earnestness, “ I
 “ wish with all my soul, Madam, that I
 “ was

“ was indeed related to your father, and
 “ ’tis in your power to make a union be-
 “ tween us for ever.” He was going to
 proceed, but, on perceiving a change in
 Charlotte’s cheeks, fear’d he had spoken too
 rashly, and, in order to recover his *faux-pas*,
 he thus intreated her forgiveness: “ I beg
 “ don, Madam ; I am afraid that the
 “ suddenness of my declaration has of-
 “ fended you.—I own I did not myself
 “ design to make it, but do not despair
 “ of being excused by you :——I long
 “ to unburden my whole heart to you.—
 “ I have loved you a great while, Ma-
 “ dam, in the sincerest manner, and should
 “ have discovered my passion sooner, had
 “ I not dreaded the thoughts of losing
 “ your company, in case of a refusal.—
 “ This apprehension prevented me from
 “ giving the least hint of it ; but it has
 “ now escaped my lips in an unguarded
 “ moment.—I only beg to meet with the
 “ same favour you have already shown
 “ me, if you cannot return my love.—I
 “ will never abuse your goodness, nor
 “ ask

“ ask for an explanation of your senti-
 “ ments on this occasion, ’till you your-
 “ self are inclin’d to disclose them.”

As Charlotte had never felt any pas-
 sion but gratitude for Frankly, she was
 not so much embarrassed for an answer, as
 when Welford declared himself her lover.
 “ I will not keep you, Sir,” said she,
 “ long in suspense : — I owe you more
 “ regard than any other man, because you
 “ have been my preserver ; and will,
 “ therefore, entrust you with a secret,
 “ which no body but my father, and one
 “ female friend, (not at present in Eng-
 “ land) knows of. The services you have
 “ done, require this frankness, and I have
 “ the greatest reason to believe that you
 “ will not make a wrong use of it. My
 “ heart, Sir,” continued she, with a
 gentle sigh, which she tried in vain to
 suppress, “ is already engaged.—But you
 “ may be always assured of my grateful
 “ esteem.—I hope you won’t require any
 “ farther explanations.”

FRANKLY,

FRANKLY, who hardly dared to expect a more favourable reply, thanked her for the confidence she had placed in him, and vowed she should never have cause to repent.—Adding, that he would not resume the subject of their conversation, if she would only permit his visits as a friend.

He then began to talk of indifferent things; and Charlotte, pleas'd with his ready acquiescence, recovered her gaiety, and treated him with her usual freedom and good humour.

WHEN she was in private with her father, she told him all that had passed, and begg'd he would not be displeased with her for not accepting his addresses.

MR. Byersley, finding that his daughter still permitted Frankly to visit her, and behaved to him as usual, hoped that she might yet change her opinion; and therefore highly applauded the
the

the answer she gave him : telling her, at the same time, that he should never be displeased with any thing she did.

In the beginning of the winter, Miss Seward came to her apartments in Pall-mall, where she was soon after privately married to Sir Francis ; a house was then order'd to be prepared for her in Grosvenor-square, in the most superb and elegant manner, she not chusing to receive the compliments of her friends in ready-furnish'd lodgings ; and lived incog. 'till it was fit for her reception.

As Sir Francis's chief view, by marriage, was to pay off his old debts, in order to contract new ones with a better grace ; he never troubled his head about the orders his lady gave. While she amused herself at cabinet-warehouses and china-shops ; in purchasing various kinds of nicknacks, at an extravagant price, he sported away large sums with as much unconcern in billiard-rooms and at hazard-tables.

As

As soon as Lady Tiers entered her new house, she was impatient to see her former companions, that they might be witnesses of her grandeur. She therefore dispersed her cards about very liberally : one of which Charlotte receiv'd ; it contained these words :

“ LADY Tiers’s compliments to Miss Byersley.—She sees company every day
“ this week.

“ Monday morning.

“ Grosvenor-square.”

THIS card confirmed the news which Charlotte had heard several weeks before she received it, of her friend’s arrival in England, and marriage with Sir Francis Tiers ; but to which she had given no credit, not imagining that she could have so little regard for her as not to acquaint her with such an important event. The formality of the message was, she thought, not consistent with their former familiarity ; but she had, notwithstanding, so good an opi-

nion of her, that she imputed the seeming change in her manners to the real change in her condition. Taking, therefore, the first opportunity to pay a visit of congratulation, she ordered the coach to be ready the next morning.

I WOULD not have my polite female readers imagine, by this intended morning-jaunt, that Charlotte (tho' she kept little company) was quite so ignorant as not to know that the evening is most proper for a ceremonious visit. Charlotte loved her Arabella, and longed to hear every minute incident that had happen'd during her absence: she therefore chose the morning, that she might convince her, by going as soon as she found out her place of abode, that time had not impaired her friendship, and in hopes of meeting with her disengaged.

CHARLOTTE arrived at her friend's house about noon, and was told by the servant at the door, that his lady was not stirring. She then desired to speak with
Mrs.

Mrs. Jenny her maid, supposing she lived with her, but the footman only knew her by the title of Mrs. Handy, my lady's woman : and sent to tell her that she was wanted below.

LADY Tiers was then dressing ; so that, when the messenger rapp'd at the door, and whispered to Mrs. Handy, she cried out, " What can that fellow want now ? " " Have not I told you, I will not be " disturbed while I am dressing ? " " La ! " " Ma'm," said Handy, " he says some " body in a coach asks for me ; I am " sure I can't divine who it can be ? " " No matter," replied my Lady, " a " very impertinent creature, I warrant, " by coming so early in a morning.— " But you shall not leave me 'till I am " fit to appear." The servant, who heard his lady's answer, returned to Charlotte with it ; and she then sent up her name. " Oh la, ma'm ! who does your ladyship " think it can be ? Miss Byersley, to " be certain."— " Lard, what could " possibly induce the girl," said lady

Tiers, “ to come at this time of the
 “ marning ; but she knows no better ;—
 “ go down, Handy, and see what she
 “ wants.—Stay,—you’re always in such
 “ a pro-digious hurry : give me the
 “ *rouge* first ; and harkee,—send up the
 “ fellow to curl my hair.—Here, Handy,
 “ come back,—show her into the best
 “ room, and let her wait there ’till it is
 “ proper for me to be visible.

Mrs. Handy then went down simp’ring
 and courtseying to Charlotte, whom she
 found in the Hall, and who received her
 with great good humour, inquiring after
 her lady’s health very earnestly, as she
 was afraid it was in a bad state, because
 she ’rose so late. “ Oh ! dear Ma’am,”
 said Handy, “ my lady seldom rises
 “ sooner : tho’ indeed, she had but a lit-
 “ tle rout last night, only a few of Sir
 “ Francis’s friends, not above a dozen
 “ tables ; but my lady, Ma’am, will be
 “ vastly glad to see you, I am certain,
 “ Ma’am, if you will stay ’till she has
 “ got her clothes on.”

CHAR-

CHARLOTTE, not used to be treated by her friend in this ceremonious way, was a good deal disconcerted. Mrs. Handy conducted her into a large room furnished in the most gawdy manner (but without a spark of fire, tho' the weather was very cold) and desired her to sit down there, while she returned to her lady, who rung with great violence, and cried out, as soon as she saw her woman, " I have alter'd
 " my mind—let the unfashionable animal
 " come up—she will serve to divert me."

Handy found Charlotte shivering like an aspen leaf, and looking at a fine piece of carving over the chimney, in the form of a Chinese temple. She received lady Tiers's second message, and followed Handy up stairs very chearfully. But how was she surprized, when she saw her friend, instead of running to her with open arms, sitting before a large glass, in a loose sack, without stays or handkerchief, and a French valet attending with the curling-irons. She just rose on Charlotte's entring, and

“ you last night. Curse me if I did not pity
 “ your bad hands. I came at this early
 “ hour purely out of compassion, and to
 “ know if you will try to retrieve your
 “ loofigs at the masquerade this even-
 “ ing ?” “ What masquerade ” re-
 plied she ? “ I have heard nothing of
 it. “ That may be,” said he ; “ for
 “ ’tis only a private set at lady Riot’s ;
 “ but I have a ticket at your service.”
 “ Let’s see it, thou dear creature,” cried
 her ladyship ; “ let’s see it this minute.”
 The baronet then produced it, and while
 Arabella’s eyes were running over it, full of
 transport, Charlotte, who only waited for
 an opportunity to retire handsomely, rose
 up, and told her she should be very glad
 to see her when the hurry of her engage-
 ments was over. Lady Tiers, who began
 to be heartily weary of Charlotte, bid her
 adieu, with a smiling face, and told her
 she would endeavour to find a leisure half
 hour to call upon her.

As soon as Charlotte left the room,
 Sir George, who had beheld her with new
 desire,

desire, began to form new schemes, in order to gratify both his love and his revenge. Though he knew little of lady Tiers's disposition, having only been introduced to her acquaintance by Sir Francis, he saw enough of her to imagine that he could easily prevail on her to forward his design. With this view he asked her if she had long known that young lady, and what was her name. Bell, who would have chosen any other subject, replied, that she was a poor awkward thing, knew nothing of the world, and lived in an obscure part of the town. "The girl's father," said he, "was formerly acquainted with my uncle, and therefore she took it into her head to visit me." — "Hem—but the masquerade, dear Sir George; what dress have you order'd?" "Upon my soul," answered he, she is a fine creature—I would give half my estate to purchase her." — "Pshaw, pshaw," said lady Tiers, (who began to be piqued with hearing him launch out in praise of Charlotte) "I suppose

“ you may have her for a quarter of it.”
 “ —Say you so, my dear lady,” cried the
 baronet, “ then by all that’s lovely,
 “ I will. And what think you of go-
 “ ing halves with me in this affair ? You
 “ are intimate with the young tit, and I
 “ can see her very conveniently at your
 “ house.” “ I am astonished at your
 “ impudence,” said her Ladyship, (with
 an affected disdain.)—“ Do you take me
 “ Sir to be either old or ugly enough
 “ for a procurefs ?—I would”—“ Hold,
 “ hold, my angel,” said he, “ I adore
 “ you.—Your charms are far superior to
 “ that girl’s ; but hear me patiently.—
 “ You know that you are (thanks to
 “ bad cards) deep in my debt, and that
 “ your honour is concern’d. This debt
 “ I will cancel entirely, if you will con-
 “ descend to assist me ; and, in the mean
 “ time, I beg your acceptance of this
 “ snuff-box :” He then presented to her a
 box set with diamonds with a graceful
 air, which she as gracefully received, and
 speaking more gently than before : “ Well,
 “ well,

“ well,” said she, “ I would be glad to know
 “ what saucy proposal you have now to
 “ make ; for saucy I am sure it must be if
 “ it comes from you.” “ Since that’s
 “ your opinion,” replied he, catching her
 in his arms, “ I will give you proofs
 “ that you are not deceived in me.”

LADY Tiers liked these sorts of freedom too well to be very angry at them ; she, however, affected a surprize, and faintly breaking from him, desired him to proceed with his request about Charlotte. “ I must then tell your ladyship,
 “ that I first saw the young thing at the
 “ play last winter, and would have followed her home ; but Lord ***** in-
 “ sisted on my going with him in his
 “ chariot to White’s. Last summer I
 “ met her at Richmond ; and decoyed
 “ her from thence ; but my designs were
 “ accidentally frustrated just at the critical minute. Afterwards I made serious
 “ proposals, but they were rejected by
 “ her father ; for which treatment I vow
 “ revenge, and to be free, must find

“ out another *confidante*, if you refuse to
 “ assist me.

LADY Tiers, who now had a double
 satisfaction, at the thoughts of ruining an
 innocent beauty, and of gaining a consi-
 derable sum, told him she would manage
 his affair as well as she could : “ but,”
 said she, “ I will not be publicly ac-
 “ cessary to it on any account : Char-
 “ lotte, I suppose, will often come to visit
 “ me ; and if you meet her at my house,
 “ who can help it, you know ?”—“ Ay,”
 said he, eager to pursue his project, “ but
 “ you must not be neuter. Except you
 “ repay her visit soon, or desire her to
 “ come to you, we shall make nothing of
 “ our plot.” “ Lard, Sir George,” re-
 plied she, “ do you imagine that I can
 “ be prevailed on to murder so much
 “ precious time in a visit to her ? No, in-
 “ deed : I have a million of engagements,
 “ which I would not put off for the In-
 “ dies. All I can do for you, is to ap-
 “ point her to come here ; tho’ you must
 “ be out of the way, and leave me to
 “ con-

“ contrive.” “ My charmer,” replied he, “ you quite transport me ;—but say—
 “ what evening shall be the happy one ? ”
 “ It can’t be this week,” said my lady ;
 “ because I shall have company every
 “ day.” “ ’Sdeath,” cried Sir George,
 “ a week’s an age to a man in my
 “ condition ;—say, shall it be next Mon-
 “ day ?—Well, perhaps it may,——but
 “ hush ! I hear the rustling of silks,
 “ upon the stairs——no more——”

WHILE the worst designs were thus carrying on against the innocent Charlotte, she was returning home to her father, with her head full of the change she had discovered in Arabella : disappointed of the pleasure she expected of a bosom friend, and shocked at every thing she had heard and seen, she for some time blamed her extremely : but her good sense and good nature inclined her, at last, rather to pity than to blame her. “ How do I know,” said she, “ but that I might appear equally ridiculous, were I possessed of as large a fortune ; she was not always
 I “ thus,

“ thus, and may, perhaps, live to see
 “ and repent of her errors.” Thus did
 the amiable Charlotte endeavour to pal-
 liate her friend’s behaviour ; and, when
 she got home, strove as much as she
 could, to throw a veil over her follies ;
 and not to heighten them for the diversion
 of her father and Frankly. But her mind
 was very uneasy : she could not think
 calmly of giving up all the happiness she
 had imag’d to herself, on Bell’s return
 to England. She wish’d to enjoy as many
 private hours with her as she had en-
 joyed before their separation, and was
 sorry to find there was so great an inti-
 macy with Sir George ; because the fear
 of meeting him would hinder her from
 going as often as she had intended.

SIR George called on lady Tiers every
 succeeding day, to put her in mind of
 her promise : which she perform’d on the
 very next Monday, by sending the follow-
 ing card.

“ THIS

“ THIS evening, between seven and
 “ eight, is the first opportunity I shall
 “ have to see my dear Charlotte alone.—
 “ I hope she will excuse my vivacity,
 “ when I had lost the pleasure of her
 “ company, which, I fear, was too great
 “ for my serious friend : but I am well
 “ assured of my Charlotte’s good-nature,
 “ and expect she will postpone all other
 “ engagements, and fly to the arms of
 “ her ever-affectionate

Grosvenor - square.
 Monday morning.

“ A. TIERS.”

THIS card arrived too late for success ;
 for Charlotte had been seized the evening before with so violent a fever, that a physician was consulted, who declared it was a fore-runner of the small-pox, and a bad sort too ; but said that it would not be proper to tell her so, lest the surprise should prevent its coming out freely, upon which her life depended. Mr. Byersley was excessively alarmed at the doctor’s
 report,

report, and sent to Mrs. Bootle; desiring her to stay a few days at his house, as he could not bear the thoughts of trusting his darling to the care of a common nurse. She very obligingly complied with his request; but found Charlotte much worse than she expected.

MR. BYERLEY, to whom Lady Tiers's card was brought on the Monday morning, told the messenger, that his daughter was dangerously ill of the small-pox.

WHEN lady Tiers received this message, she rejoiced to think that Charlotte's beauty would no longer give her any anxiety: and when she told Sir George of his mistress's condition, he replied, with a grin, " 'Egad I believe the devil has taken possession of the girl, in order to jockey me.—With all my heart; for I would not give a pinch of snuff for a face scarified by that cursed distemper." His only concern was about giving up his winnings too hastily to her ladyship;

ladyship ; but he comforted himself with the hopes of meeting with some other handsome young friend of her's, who might do as well.

Poor Charlotte's distemper increased daily 'till it came to the turn, and then the physicians gave her almost-distracted father some hopes of her recovery. Frankly, who really loved her, not only for the charms of her person, but the mildness of her affections, and the gentleness of her manners, spent a great part of every day with Mr. Byersley, that he might continually hear how she was ; and tried to alleviate his concern : by which humane behaviour he render'd himself a greater favourite than ever.

Mrs. Bootle sat up many nights with Charlotte, who was often light-headed, and then raved about Welford and Arabella, the two persons who had been so very dear to her. When the violence of her fever abated, and her senses returned, she soon found out her disorder ; so, on putting

ting her hand to her forehead, she felt a strange roughness; and recollecting what she had heard of people in such circumstances, immediately cried out, " Good God, I have certainly got the small-pox." Lucky was it that she remained so long ignorant; for had she known it at first, the surprize might have killed her. " Don't be alarm'd, my dear, Miss By-ersley," said Mrs. Bootle, who sat by her bedside " you are out of danger, and will, I trust, recover apace." " Oh! Madam," replied she faintly, " will my misfortunes never end? This is, indeed, a very great one." " You must not think so," said Mrs. Bootle, " as long as you are so much better. Your Papa, Mr. Frankly and myself, have been rejoycing to hear the doctors speak so favourably of you." " Oh! Mrs. Bootle," returned she, " you don't know all."——There she stopp'd;—for sighs and tears would not suffer her to proceed ——

THIS

THIS extreme uneasiness of a young lady, on the loss of her beauty, which she never seemed to value, may, perhaps, appear at first sight unnatural; but let the reader suspend his judgment a while, and I will produce reasons for that uneasiness, which, I hope, will be deemed satisfactory.

It has already been observed that Welford, notwithstanding his supposed flighting behaviour, had still a place in her esteem; and tho' she thought that youth and the little knowledge he had of the world, might have inclined him to rove after variety; she could not help flattering herself that he might one day repent of his hasty departure, and return again to solicit a reconciliation. But the small-pox crush'd all her hopes of this sort, as she was thereby going to be quite a different creature, and far less agreeable in her person. In short, the anxiety she felt was so great, that it made her fever return; yet, having an excellent constitution, she grew better again in a short time,

time, and was able to sit up: but soon found by peeping in the glass, and by the hints of those about her, that she must content herself with being only not frightful: so great a havock had her disorder made, that the return of beauty could never be expected. She often asked, if lady Tiers ever sent to enquire after her, but always received negative answers: (That lady was too much engaged to think about her.) The card that came the first day of her illness had been shown; from the perusal of which, she fancied her friend had still a regard for her; yet she could not account for her neglect afterwards. Mrs. Bootle, perceiving that she sigh'd very much, said "I beg, Miss Byersley, you
 " would not give way to melancholy.—
 " You ought to endeavour to regain your
 " former chearfulness, and no body will
 " regret the loss of your fine complexion,
 " which might not have lasted many years,
 " if this distemper had not seized you.
 " O, Mrs. Bootle," said she, (unable to conceal her uneasiness any longer) "I have
 " reason

“ reason to regret the loss of every thing
 “ I dearly loved, except my dearest papa.
 “ You don’t know, Madam, what an
 “ unfortunate creature I am.” “ Bless
 “ me!” replied Mrs. Bootle, (who began to think she raved again) “ what do
 “ you mean?—I have known you several
 “ years, but don’t recollect that you have
 “ met with any misfortunes but those to
 “ which all are liable who outlive their
 “ friends.” “ The loss of my mamma,”
 said Charlotte “ was undoubtedly a very
 “ heavy one ; but I have had two losses
 “ since!” She then told Mrs. Bootle
 every thing relating to Welford and
 Arabella ; and Mrs. Bootle, pleased with
 the confidence she placed in her, said,
 “ You have been, indeed, unlucky ; but
 “ the troubles which appear so great to
 “ you, because you never felt greater,
 “ are nothing in comparison of what thou-
 “ sands suffer every day.—None, I be-
 “ lieve, are perfectly happy, if we knew
 “ their secret thoughts.—I myself seem
 “ to be as easy as most people, yet I
 “ passed the younger part of my life in
 “ a very

“ a very disagreeable way, and struggled
 “ with many difficulties.—And if the detail
 “ of my difficulties will tend to lessen your
 “ sufferings, you shall be acquainted with
 “ all the transactions of my family.”
 “ You can’t oblige me more,” said Char-
 lotte, “ I should be glad to know every
 “ circumstance relating to a person for
 “ whom I have so true an esteem.” Mrs.
 Bootle then began her narrative in the
 following manner :

“ My father was a young merchant,
 “ and just entered into partnership with
 “ his master, when he first saw my mo-
 “ ther at a relation’s, who, one evening,
 “ invited him to a ball. She was, at
 “ that time, about eighteen, and reckon’d
 “ very handsome. My father was so
 “ charm’d with her person and easy be-
 “ haviour, that he immediately became
 “ a lover, and soon after resolved to
 “ marry her, if he could gain her con-
 “ sent and a rich uncle’s, (her nearest re-
 “ lation) who was left guardian to her.
 “ Her own little fortune was 1500 l.
 “ but

“ but as this uncle had only one daugh-
 “ ter, five years younger than her, it was
 “ imagin’d that he would make some ad-
 “ dition to it, if she married with his ap-
 “ probation : he would, however, give
 “ nothing but his consent, though my
 “ father was in a flourishing way of busi-
 “ ness, and might have demanded a larger
 “ portion.

“ My father’s relations were provoked at,
 “ this disappointment, and violently op-
 “ posed the match ; but he was too
 “ much in love to hear their remon-
 “ strances. The same year that gave him
 “ a daughter, gave him also the mortifi-
 “ cation to know that an uncle, on his own
 “ side, from whom he had considerable
 “ expectations, had alter’d his will, and
 “ left all his fortune to a cousin.

“ Thus, my dear, you see how un-
 “ fortunate my birth was — : but my
 “ father and mother, who were very fond
 “ of each other, made themselves toler-
 “ ably easy, and were as delighted with
 “ me,

“ me, as if I had brought them an in-
 “ crease of wealth. My mother’s cousin
 “ was desired by my father, to be my
 “ godmother, and honoured me with her
 “ name. The first years of my child-
 “ hood were spent in the common way of
 “ education ; I was beloved, but not
 “ idolized by my parents : indeed they
 “ had neither leisure nor means to spoil
 “ me ; for my mother lay in ten years suc-
 “ cessively : and matrimony began to be
 “ very expensive to my father, whose bu-
 “ siness daily decreased. None of those
 “ children lived long enough to be trou-
 “ blefome, except one girl, born five years
 “ after me, who was pronounced to be
 “ the picture of my mother ; and indeed
 “ she grew every day more and more
 “ like her.

“ THIS new daughter made my father
 “ too so happy, that I was in a little time
 “ totally neglected by them both, while
 “ Fanny became their darling, and was
 “ admir’d by all their acquaintance. I
 “ was sensible of their partiality to my
 sister ;

‘ sister, and at first, like a child, behaved
 ‘ saucily to her, but soon found that I should
 ‘ get nothing by such a behaviour ; I there-
 ‘ fore, kept out of their sight as much
 ‘ as I could, and spent my time chiefly
 ‘ in reading, (having an early relish for
 ‘ books) tho’ not without frequently shed-
 ‘ ding tears at the kindness shown to
 ‘ Fanny and the slights put upon me. My
 ‘ mother, to do her justice, was more
 ‘ considerate than my father, and would
 ‘ often encourage me : but he who had
 ‘ fallen in love with her, meerly for her
 ‘ beauty, doated on every thing that bore
 ‘ the least resemblance to it.

“ WHEN I enter’d into the ninth year
 “ of my age, my godmother, who was
 “ just at that time, by the death of her
 “ father, become a rich heiress, married
 “ Mr. Flurry, a gentleman of family,
 “ but not rich ; his estate being very
 “ much encumber’d. He therefore want-
 “ ed the assistance of my cousin’s for-
 “ tune to repair it. My mother waited
 “ on her after her marriage, but as she
 “ had removed to St. James’s, and was
 VOL. I. H “ grown

“ grown a fine lady, she soon forgot her
 “ old city friends. One lady there was
 “ with whom she kept up an intimacy :
 “ Mrs. Harcourt, a widow, whose hus-
 “ band was a Templar, and had left
 “ her in affluent circumstances. This
 “ lady was a good friend to my mother ;
 “ they saw each other often : I was taken
 “ much notice of by her ; (tho’ my sis-
 “ ter, as she loved children, was her fa-
 “ vourite) and she told my father that I
 “ grew a fine girl. I was then, and many
 “ years afterwards, reckon’d handsome.
 “ Don’t think, my dear Miss Byersley, I
 “ speak out of vanity : I had no reason
 “ to rejoice at being so, for I was on that
 “ very account, unhappy during the
 “ greatest part of my life.—But to pro-
 “ ceed :

“ We continued in this situation about
 “ seven years ; then, my father, having
 “ met with several losses, and suffered by
 “ the bankruptcy of one of his correspon-
 “ dents in Flanders, thought it impossi-
 “ ble to carry on business any longer ;
 “ but, being assured by his partner that
 “ their

“ their affairs might be reinstated, if ei-
 “ ther of them would go to Bruffels, he
 “ offered himself to venture on the expe-
 “ dition : the design of which he soon
 “ communicated to my mother ; and
 “ asked her, if she would accompany him,
 “ tho’ he was puzzled to know what to
 “ do with his daughters, in the mean
 “ time. My mother partly cleared up
 “ his doubts, by telling him she had great
 “ hopes of disposing of Fanny : “ But
 “ what,” said she, “ shall we do with
 “ Liddy ? ” (meaning me) “ however,
 “ allow me but one night’s considera-
 “ tion, and I’ll provide in the best
 “ manner I can, for the poor girl..”
 “ After this speech, she hurried away to
 “ Mrs. Harcourt’s, told her she was in
 “ the utmost dilemma about her chil-
 “ dren, and begg’d to have her advice.
 “ Mrs. Harcourt was a good-natur’d, ge-
 “ nerous woman, and replied, “ I’ll
 “ take care of Fanny myself.” My mo-
 “ ther expected this answer, and thanked
 “ her with tears of joy : “ but what shall
 “ I do,” said she, with Lyddy ? “ Can

“ you tell me, where I shall place her ’till
 “ our affairs will permit us to return to
 “ England? or to send for both her and her
 “ sister?” “ I have had some thoughts,”
 “ answer’d Mrs. Harcourt, “ of intro-
 “ ducing Liddy to her godmother, Mrs.
 “ Flurry : she is a sprightly girl, and by
 “ a proper behaviour, may not only be-
 “ come a favourite, but perhaps inherit a
 “ large share of her fortune, as she has
 “ no children. “ Ay,” said my mo-
 “ ther, “ this scheme will do very well ;
 “ but I am afraid Mrs. Flurry will not
 “ take my child,” “ Why not?” said
 “ Mrs. Harcourt ; “ she is your nearest
 “ relation, and you have never had any
 “ misunderstanding : besides, such a lively
 “ girl as Liddy is capable of being a
 “ diverting companion : fear not, I war-
 “ rant we shall succeed. Send both your
 “ children to me, and I’ll take care
 “ of them.” My mother, overjoyed at
 “ these words, returned to my father,
 “ and told him, that she had provided for
 “ both his daughters ; and that she was
 “ ready

“ ready to set out with him as soon as
 “ he pleased. In two days afterwards,
 “ (having bid us adieu, and charged me,
 “ in particular to please the lady I was
 “ going to, and to love my sister, who
 “ being much younger, might, they
 “ thought, perhaps, want my assistance)
 “ they set out with great reluctance.

“ THOUGH I had not for several years
 “ been treated by my parents affectionate-
 “ ly, yet even that state of indifference
 “ was a heavenly one, compar'd to the
 “ other, which I, in a short time after
 “ their departure, experienced. When I
 “ had been three days with Mrs. Har-
 “ court, she order'd me to dress my self
 “ genteely, and attend her to Mrs.
 “ Flurry's, whom she had prepared to
 “ receive me. While we were in the
 “ coach, she spoke to me thus: “ The
 “ lady who is now going to take care of
 “ you, my dear, is your godmother,
 “ whose attention you will soon gain by
 “ complying with her humour: she loves
 “ respect, and cannot bear contradiction:

“ therefore, if you are only studious to
 “ please her, I dare say you will find your
 “ account in it.”

“ I thanked her for her friendly advice,
 “ and promised to follow it.

“ WHEN we came to Mrs. Flurry’s,
 “ the servant told Mrs. Harcourt, that
 “ his lady was too much out of order to
 “ see company, but desired she would
 “ leave me; which she accordingly did,
 “ after wishing me success, in a very
 “ hearty manner.

“ I WAS then desired to walk up stairs,
 “ and shown into the lady’s chamber,
 “ while the servant went into her dressing-
 “ room, to tell her of my coming: to
 “ whom I could over-hear the following
 “ answer—“ So, so, the beauty’s come at
 “ last; is she? pray let’s see this rarity?
 “ bid her come hither.” I was not greatly
 “ delighted with this speech, tho’ I ima-
 “ gin’d that Mrs. Harcourt’s favourable
 “ mention of me had occasioned it.

“ WHEN

“ WHEN the servant open’d the door
 “ for me, I advanc’d and made one of my
 “ best curtsies ; but Mrs. Flurry, who
 “ was sunk into an easy chair, lifted up
 “ her hands and eyes at the sight of me,
 “ and turning to her woman (who stood
 “ by her with a jelly) said, with an un-
 “ couth voice, and in a fauntring manner,
 “ My G—d ! do they call this creature
 “ handsome ? ” I blush’d at this excla-
 “ mation, and at the awkward figure I
 “ made, but endeavoured to recover my-
 “ self ; and while she proceeded to exa-
 “ mine me, amused myself with surveying
 “ her. She was very fat, and unwieldy ;
 “ had a large pair of goggling eyes, and
 “ carbuncled face ; her chief pleasure lay
 “ in feeding luxuriously, in which she mi-
 “ mick’d the most fashionable taste, and
 “ was consequently vapourish, fanciful,
 “ and splenetic ; always affecting to be dis-
 “ temper’d ; and was indeed often so in
 “ reality. As she was conscious of her
 “ own personal defects, she hated every
 “ body who had the least pretension to

“ agreeableness, and married Mr. Flurry
 “ only because he was related to a family
 “ of distinction : for she had no idea of
 “ love : however, she was often jealous
 “ about the meekest trifles, being natu-
 “ rally very proud, and laying a great
 “ stress on punctilio’s. Her chief favou-
 “ rites were a lap-dog as fat, and a monkey
 “ as ill-natur’d as herself. To these she
 “ was very kind, and behaved to them
 “ with more complacency than to any of
 “ her other domestics.

“ Mrs. Flurry asked me how old I
 “ was, and what I could do ? I repli-
 “ ed to the first question, just fifteen ; and
 “ was studying for any answer to the se-
 “ cond, when she cried out, “ Fifteen ?
 “ and such a may-pole ? Lard, girl,
 “ you’ll be good for nothing, I’ll lay my
 “ life ! Such tall creatures are always
 “ lazy ;—well—but you don’t tell me
 “ what you can do—nothing, I warrant—
 “ no—you are too handsome to work, I
 “ suppose.”—I blush’d again, but mus-
 “ tered up spirits enough to tell her, that
 “ I had lerrnt needle-work, and would
 “ wil-

“ willingly do any thing I could for her.
 “ Oh you will,” returned she.—“ Well,
 “ Sippet,” (turning to her woman) “ take
 “ care of this pretty moppet, and let her
 “ assist you in making my things : I’ll
 “ have her always employ’d : idleness
 “ spoils young girls, especially beauties :”
 “ The last word in this speech, was pro-
 “ nounced with such a sneer, that the ill
 “ opinion I had entertain’d of her, was
 “ considerably increased. Mrs. Sippet
 “ then conducted me up to the second
 “ floor, and into a room within her own
 “ apartment, where I was to lie : she
 “ seem’d mighty civil and simpering at
 “ first, and told me, that if I would be
 “ docible, and mind her, she would shew
 “ me how to please my lady : I thanked
 “ her coolly, and when she left me, gave
 “ way to a shower of tears, which re-
 “ lieved my heart, ready as it was to burst
 “ at such strange treatment. Length of
 “ time reconciled me, in some measure
 “ to my situation ; and, as I was always
 “ a notable girl, I paid my court to my
 “ godmother very successfully, and made
 H 5 “ myself

“ myself so useful to Mrs. Sippet, that I
 “ gain’d her confidence, which was of no
 “ small service to me. From her I learnt
 “ that Mrs. Harcourt, not knowing her
 “ lady’s foible, and thinking to recom-
 “ mend me effectually, had said, I was a
 “ very fine girl, and would make an ex-
 “ cellent woman; which account had in-
 “ censed her so much against me, and had
 “ given occasion to the ridiculous beha-
 “ viour at our first interview.

“ I WENT every now and then, by my
 “ godmother’s permission, to visit Mrs.
 “ Harcourt, who always received me very
 “ affectionately, and often made me little
 “ presents, which were at all times high-
 “ ly acceptable; for Mrs. Flurry on-
 “ ly furnished me with cloaths, and not
 “ even them in great abundance: she
 “ had, indeed, too many genteel ways of
 “ circulating her money, to have much to
 “ spare. By Mrs. Harcourt’s advice, I
 “ wrote to my father and mother; but
 “ the former did not live to receive a let-
 “ ter from his poor girl: he died soon
 “ after

“ after his arrival at Bruffels, and left my
 “ mother in very scanty circumstances ;
 “ but she was so very fortunate as to
 “ make herself agreeable to a young mer-
 “ chant in the house where she lodged,
 “ who paid his addresses to her with so
 “ much success, that he married her in a
 “ few months after my father’s death.

“ My sister was too young to be very
 “ sensible of her loss ; it was not, in-
 “ deed, so great a one to her, for Mrs.
 “ Harcourt was as kind to her as if
 “ she had been her mother, and made use
 “ of all the rhetoric she was mistress of, to
 “ persuade my godmother to shew me the
 “ same favour ; but (unhappily for me)
 “ Mrs. Flurry was quite of a different
 “ disposition, and treated me worse and
 “ worse : for I grew more womanly in
 “ my person, and was taken notice of
 “ by the gentlemen who din’d with Mr.
 “ Flurry, and bestow’d more civilities
 “ on me than the good lady approv’d of.
 “ Mr. Flurry himself never paid me any
 “ extraordinary regard, for fear of diso-

“ blessing his wife, who had a large sum
 “ in her own possession, which he hoped
 “ to inherit, and therefore was very assiduous
 “ to please her ; never troubling
 “ himself with her behaviour to me, which
 “ grew more and more intolerable to me,
 “ as I grew less and less disagreeable to
 “ her visitors. If any person said I was a
 “ fine young lady ; she would answer,
 “ Lady ! oh dear ! I beg you would not
 “ put such notions in the girl’s noddle :
 “ she a lady ! it will be happy for her if
 “ she’s able to get her bread :—she’s too
 “ proud, as I always tell her ; that’s Lydia’s fault : or, if they said, “ Miss grows
 “ very pretty ; “ Yes, indeed,” she would
 “ reply, “ Miss is a very pretty creature ;
 “ and I don’t doubt but she thinks so
 “ herself ; but, I believe, she won’t get
 “ any thing by her beauty, except ’tis a
 “ bad character.”—These obliging answers
 “ generally silenced my admirers,
 “ and made me blush, almost to tears :
 “ but my visible uneasiness on such occasions
 “ was so far from exciting pity in my
 “ sweet-

“ sweet-temper’d god-mother, that it com-
 “ monly subjected me to fresh insults.—
 “ Lard, now,” she would bawl out, “ look
 “ if the pretty soul isn’t ready to cry ;
 “ but, prithee, child, don’t fit snivel-
 “ ing here ; get up stairs to your work ;
 “ spoiling your eyes will be the worst
 “ thing you can do, let me tell you ;
 “ go, go, Miss, to your room, I’ll
 “ have no whimpering where I am ; I
 “ shall have people think I have beaten
 “ you : go, take Waddle up into my
 “ dressing-room and comb his ears. I see
 “ you want employment, that will cure
 “ you of the vapours.”

“ THIS was the life I led for six or se-
 “ ven years, except when Mrs. Harcourt
 “ came, before whom my godmother al-
 “ ways treated me in a better manner ; for
 “ she took every occasion to speak warm-
 “ ly in my behalf, and constantly tried to
 “ persuade Mrs. Flurry to look on me as
 “ her own child : but, alas ! her intended
 “ kindness had a contrary effect ; for she al-
 “ ways left my godmother in a worse humour
 “ than

“ than she found her. You may wonder, perhaps, Miss Byersley, that I never
 “ complained either to Mrs. Harcourt,
 “ nor to my mother (whom I sometimes
 “ wrote to): but the truth is, I received
 “ so many repeated charges from them
 “ both to make it my whole study to
 “ please Mrs. Flurry, that I had not courage to unboosom myself.

“ DURING that time I had several admirers; but though they flattered my
 “ vanity, I suffered very much from their
 “ good opinion of me. Among those
 “ gentlemen there was one who made a
 “ great fuss in the family, and added considerably to my uneasiness. He was
 “ a young clergyman, and curate of the
 “ parish in which Mr. Flurry’s estate lay;
 “ to which we retired about five months
 “ every summer. Mr. Stubble (so he
 “ was called) was the son of a farmer who
 “ had been many years a tenant of my
 “ uncle’s, and designed by Mrs. Flurry
 “ to have the living when vacant: for
 “ Mrs. Sippet had a great influence on
 “ her

“ her master, and intreated him to provide for Mr. Stubble, because she intended to make him her husband ; an honour to which the young man had no aversion, ’till I, unfortunately for him, came down with the family to Woodlands ; that was the name of the seat.

“ Tho’ I had very little knowledge of love matters, but what I had learnt from books, I soon discovered that Mr. Stubble had a particular regard for me : for he not only took every opportunity to let me see it, but one day, when he was unobserved, slyly conveyed a letter into my hand, which contained a furious declaration of love. I, who beheld him with the utmost indifference, and, like a giddy girl, wanted to boast of my conquest, ran directly to Mrs. Sippet, and gave her the letter.—But I found out my error too late—she was excessively nettled at the discovery, and remained for some time as mute as a fish, considering, I suppose, what method she
“ should

“ should take to get rid of her rival. Her
 “ curiosity, at length, broke out into fifty
 “ questions of this sort : “ How do you
 “ like him ? What do you intend to do ?”
 “ To which I answered, with assuring her,
 “ that I neither liked or disliked him, nor
 “ should give myself any trouble about
 “ him. With these declarations she seemed
 “ to be satisfied ; but only seemed so. From
 “ that moment, she endeavoured to get
 “ rid of me, by telling her lady all she
 “ knew, and inventing a great deal more :
 “ yet fearing that the curate should dis-
 “ cover her tricks, and be incensed a-
 “ gainst her, she begg’d her ladyship not
 “ to mention what she said to either of
 “ us ; for she would undertake to manage
 “ me, with her leave ; but that it was a
 “ thousand pities a modest young man
 “ could not go about his business, with-
 “ out being fet upon by such bold flirts.
 “ Mrs. Flurry was entirely of Sippet’s
 “ mind, and complied with her request ;
 “ only reprimanding me pretty severely for
 “ my forwardness, and ordering me, by way
 “ of punishment, to finish several large
 “ pieces

“ pieces of work, in so short a time, that
 “ I had scarce any leisure for walking or
 “ reading, my favourite amusements :

“ To increase my vexation, Sippet
 “ watch’d me so closely (in order to pre-
 “ vent Mr. Stubble’s writing or speaking
 “ to me) that I was seldom alone. I was
 “ puzzled to know the cause of this unu-
 “ sual confinement ; but in a short time
 “ found it out : for I happend one day
 “ to overhear Sippet and my godmother
 “ earnestly chatt’ring about me, and re-
 “ solving, at last, to send me for two
 “ or three months, to visit Mrs. Har-
 “ court. I rejoiced at this news exceed-
 “ ingly, but my spirits soon drooped ; for
 “ both Mrs. Flurry and I received letters
 “ from her on the same day, informing
 “ us that she and my sister were just
 “ going to set out for Scotland : I was,
 “ therefore, obliged to return to my nee-
 “ dle-work and chamber for another week,
 “ at the end of which, Sippet, who wished
 “ heartily to remove me from Wood-
 “ lands, persuaded her lady to send me
 “ to

“ to London, on some trifling errand.—
 “ My godmother, as she never loved me
 “ in her sight, but to torment me, agreed,
 “ without hesitating, to this proposal.—
 “ Sipper, flush’d with her success, told
 “ me, that her lady wanted some fine li-
 “ nen made, but would have me take all
 “ my directions from her milliner ;——
 “ You must, therefore,” said she, “ pre-
 “ pare to go to town, and stay there ’till
 “ you are sent for.”

“ Young as I was, I plainly saw the
 “ drift of this journey ; but as I led a
 “ very weary life, I was not sorry to
 “ change the scene, and pack’d up my
 “ things ready for the next morning,
 “ when I went to my godmother to re-
 “ ceive her orders.

“ So, Madam,” said she, as soon as I
 “ enter’d the room ; “ what, I suppose
 “ you are glad to be gone to a place where
 “ you think you shall be your own mis-
 “ tress : but I have taken care to prevent
 “ that, by sending orders which shall keep
 “ you

“ you within bounds; notwithstanding
 “ your beauty.” I told her I should be
 “ very glad to obey her on all occasions.—
 “ Yes, Miss,” replied she, “ I intend you
 “ shall obey me: therefore don’t put on
 “ any of your flirting airs to the young
 “ fellows in town; for, if you do, as I live,
 “ I will have you lock’d up: you shall
 “ be as much confined from the sight of
 “ all men, as if you were shut up in a
 “ nunnery.—I’ll have no coquetting in
 “ my family; no perking and prinking
 “ to set that pretty face of yours out to
 “ show.—What! you want a husband at-
 “ ready, I suppose.—My God! what a
 “ forward slut it is? but I always thought
 “ no good would come of her, when I
 “ heard she was a beauty:—But do you
 “ hear, girl, if ever you trouble your
 “ head about the fellows, or even think of
 “ them, I’ll turn you out of doors di-
 “ rectly; and then see who will keep you
 “ for your beauty.” I assured her, in the
 “ humblest manner, that I did not know
 “ what she meant, and that I never had
 “ thought about the men improperly.—
 “ Oh!

“ Oh ! no, to be sure,” cried she, “ sweet
 “ innocent, you know nothing at all, I
 “ warrant,, with your propriety.—You’re
 “ a fine judge, indeed, what’s proper,
 “ and what not ; but I’ll tell you, huffy,
 “ you shall not think of them at all :—
 “ nor of any thing, Madam, but what I
 “ please, while I keep you ; I’ll be mis-
 “ tress of your thoughts—Improperly !—
 “ Go, get you gone, you insolent crea-
 “ ture ; I have order’d Martha to look
 “ after you, and Mrs. Frifferon, my French
 “ milliner to give you your work, and a
 “ pattern to do it by. And, as you know
 “ I’m in haste, I insist upon your sparing
 “ no time nor pains to finish it.” I then
 “ made a curtsy, and offered to go, but
 “ she called me back.—“ Come hither,
 “ girl ; I have ten times more trouble
 “ with thee than thou art worth.—I
 “ charge you to make no acquaintance
 “ with Frifferon’s shop-woman—I’ll have
 “ no junketing with such trulls in my
 “ house : nor no fellows, do you hear.
 “ Lydia ? I vow and swear, if you en-
 “ courage fellows, you shall turn out and
 “ starve,

“starve, for what I care.” After this
 “kind speech I was dismissed, and soon
 “got into the coach, which was to go to
 “town for Mr. Flurry.

“WHEN I had jogg’d along, about a
 “mile, the coach stopp’d near one of the
 “park-gates, and my faithful swain, the
 “curate (whom I had not seen from the
 “day he slipped the letter into my hand,
 “so closely was I guarded) appear’d.—
 “He accosted me in an aukward, bashful
 “manner, and told me he had waited a
 “long time for the favour of an answer,
 “but could never get sight of me ; and
 “had, therefore, desired his friend Tom
 “the coachman to stop there, that he
 “might bid me farewell, and intreat me
 “to write to him, when I arrived in
 “town. I could not help smiling at
 “his address ; but, looking as gravely as
 “I possibly could, told him, I had great
 “reason to believe that a correspondence
 “between us would not be approved of
 “by Mrs. Flurry, whom I was deter-
 “min’d never to displease : I then begg’d
 “ he

“ he would order Thomas to drive on;
 “ He blush’d and look’d silly, as if he
 “ was meditating a reply ; but as I was
 “ not in a parlying humour, I again re-
 “ quested him to let the coachman pro-
 “ ceed. At last, with great reluctance,
 “ he agreed ; for Tom would not budge
 “ an inch, ’till his friend, the parson,
 “ (who, I found, had much ingratiated
 “ himself, by often taking a cup of nappy
 “ with him in the kitchen) had given his
 “ consent. Tom then told me, that I was
 “ a mighty coy damsel, and should not,
 “ perhaps, meet with such another honest,
 “ and well-spoken gentleman for a sweet-
 “ heart.

“ NOTHING material happened on the
 “ road.—I was welcom’d at London by
 “ Martha, who always looked after the
 “ town-house while the family were at
 “ Woodlands.—She spoke very civilly,
 “ and told me, that her lady had given
 “ her very strict orders about me, but
 “ hoped I would not blame ner for obey-
 “ ing

“ ing them.—I said, that I should never
 “ blame any body for doing their duty,
 “ and desired to know when I was to go
 “ to Mrs. Frifferon’s. “ I am to wait
 “ on you there,” answered she, “ to-mor-
 “ row morning.”

“ WE accordingly went the next morn-
 “ ing ; and I was received as one of Mrs.
 “ Flurry’s dependants. The things were
 “ not then cut out : I was therefore o-
 “ bliged to call again : nay, to call feve-
 “ ral times before I could get them :
 “ however, by frequently visiting this
 “ milliner, I made some observations on
 “ herself and family, a recital of which,
 “ may probably amuse you.

“ MRS. Frifferon pass’d for a French
 “ milliner, lately arrived from Paris ; but
 “ was, in reality an Englishwoman, and
 “ had never been abroad : knowing to how
 “ violent a degree the English are infatuated
 “ with foreigners, she learnt the French lan-
 “ guage, studied the French airs ; and, the
 “ better to impose on the *beau-monde*,
 “ married

“ married a French barber, whom she
 “ soon metamorphosed into a *mercand*
 “ *tres renommé*. By this artful conduct,
 “ she very soon procured the favour of
 “ several ladies of quality, who thought
 “ every head quite frightful, if it did not
 “ come out of Frifferon’s shop. This
 “ *demi Francoise* employed her husband to
 “ fetch many of her commodities from
 “ the fountain-head ; that is, Paris itself :
 “ the rest were rendered wearable by
 “ the help of foreign names of her own
 “ invention. Her house was, by this
 “ means, not only made agreeable, but
 “ useful to the fashionable people of both
 “ sexes ; and I soon found, to my sorrow,
 “ that caps and handkerchiefs, &c. &c.
 “ were not the only goods Mrs. Frifferon
 “ dealt in.

“ THERE was in her shop a young
 “ French girl, whom Monf. Frifferon had
 “ himself imported, in order to assist his
 “ wife in deceiving her customers. Her
 “ name was Janneson—she was tolerably
 “ agreeable in her person, and had, with
 “ all

“ all the vivacity of her country-women,
 “ a great deal of good-nature. As I was
 “ obliged to attend Mrs. Frifferon very
 “ often for instructions, she and I soon
 “ grew intimate; for I could speak French
 “ pretty fluently.

“ ONE day, when we were chatting to-
 “ gether in the shop, a young gentleman
 “ came in and asked to see some French
 “ ruffles; and while my companion was
 “ preparing to show them, he amused
 “ himself in looking at me, as I thought,
 “ in a very particular manner. I was not
 “ mistaken; for, as soon as the ruffles
 “ were displayed, he begg’d I would chuse
 “ a pattern for him : I told him, that as the
 “ choice of a pattern depended entirely on
 “ fancy, he was a better judge of what
 “ would please himself, than one who was
 “ an utter stranger. “ Had I been so
 “ happy, Madam,” said he, “ as to have
 “ had the pleasure of your acquaintance,
 “ would you then have granted me the
 “ favour of your choice?” “ Indeed, Sir,”
 “ said I, smiling, “ I cannot tell what effect
 VOL. I. I “ that

“ that might have had on me, but am apt
 “ to believe I should not have been too
 “ ready to give my opinion, for several
 “ reasons.” — “ Why not,” replied he,
 “ briskly, “ I beseech you, Madam? But
 “ since you confess you have rea-
 “ sons against it, I must, at least, be
 “ so impertinent as to desire to know
 “ them?” “ Pray, Sir,” replied I, “ as
 “ briskly, “ what right have you to
 “ know my reasons?” “ I own I have
 “ no right, Madam,” said he; “ but if a
 “ violent curiosity, which I cannot resist,
 “ will have any weight with you, I hope
 “ you’ll gratify it.” “ I shall not, indeed,”
 “ cried I, laughing.—So improper a cu-
 “ riosity ought to be checked.”——“ It
 “ cannot,” said he, “ while I have the sa-
 “ tisfaction of beholding those spirited
 “ eyes of yours, or listen to the music of
 “ your voice.”——“ Then I will put a stop
 “ to it immediately,” said I,—and with-
 “ drew to the back-shop, where Mrs.
 “ Frisferon was waiting for me, and de-
 “ tain’d me so long, that I imagin’d the
 “ gentle,

“ gentleman would be gone before my
 “ return.—I guess’d right ; he was gone,
 “ and, to confess the truth, I was sorry.
 “ There was a *je ne scai quoi* in his person
 “ and manner, more pleasing than I had
 “ ever met with before. I stop’d to bid
 “ Janneton adieu, and she, in a low voice,
 “ begg’d I would contrive some excuse to
 “ come again the next day, having some-
 “ thing to tell me, which I should be
 “ glad to hear. I answered her only with
 “ a nod, Mrs. Frifferon being just behind
 “ me, and returned home with my head
 “ and heart full of this little adventure.

“ I HAD seen many young gentlemen,
 “ both at my godmother’s, and at Mrs.
 “ Harcourt’s, but never regarded any
 “ one, particularly, ’till that moment. I
 “ endeavoured by a close application to
 “ my work to banish the pleasing idea
 “ of my new admirer ; but in vain. To
 “ shew you, Miss Byersley, that I was not
 “ in love with an indifferent figure, I’ll
 “ describe his person. He was tall and
 “ genteel ; his complexion brown, but
 “ I 2 “ lively ;

“ lively ; his features were regular, and
 “ his eyes full of inexpressible sweetness.
 “ Tho’ I could not be certain that Jan-
 “ neton’s earnestness to see me the next
 “ day, was owing to the conversation she
 “ had had with him, yet I flattered my-
 “ self that it was, and my expectations
 “ were answered.

“ It was very easy for me to find
 “ an excuse : I therefore went at the usual
 “ hour. Mrs. Frifferon (luckily, as I
 “ thought) was abroad—Janneton leap’d
 “ for joy at the sight of me. “ My dear
 “ Miss Lyddy,” said she, “ I am exces-
 “ sively glad you are come. Madame is
 “ gone out, and we will drink our tea
 “ in the parlour by ourselves.” This
 “ speech startled me a little, and made me
 “ reflect, that, if Mrs. Flurry should hear
 “ of my drinking tea at her milliner’s, she
 “ might not approve of it ; and, that I
 “ ought not, for that reason, to accept of
 “ the invitation : but Janneton’s gaiety
 “ and good-humour, together with my
 “ great desire to ask her some questions,
 “ got

“ got the better of my squeamishness,
 “ and I followed her into the parlour, the
 “ door of which she presently shut, and
 “ addressed me in the following manner :

“ Do you know, my dear, that you
 “ have got a lover, and that Mr. Ramf-
 “ den, the young gentleman who was here
 “ yesterday, is quite enraptur’d with you?”
 “ How can you tell?” replied I, smiling,
 “ and secretly delighted with the intelli-
 “ gence. “ Oh ! very well ;” returned
 “ she—as if I could not see—“ but, more
 “ than that, he told me so this morn-
 “ ing.” “ Why, has he been here al-
 “ ready,” said I hastily ? “ Yes, in-
 “ deed ! said she, three or four times, and
 “ will be here again : I expect him every
 “ minute. You can’t think how eager
 “ he is to see you. While you were with
 “ Madame, he asked me fifty questions
 “ about you, and intreated me to prevail
 “ on you to come to-day, that he might
 “ declare his passion to you.” As soon as
 “ she had utter’d these words, he enter’d.
 “ I blush’d, tho’ my heart bounded for

“ joy.—He placed himself near me, at
 “ the tea-table, and said, with a smile, “ I
 “ am very happy, Madam, in meeting you
 “ here again, for I want my ruffles, and
 “ have vowed not to purchase them, ’till I
 “ know whether you approve of my
 “ choice.” “ Well, and suppose I never
 “ should approve,” replied I?” “ Then,”
 “ said he, “ I must submit to your plea-
 “ sure : but indeed it will be unkind to
 “ me, as well as prejudicial to Madam
 “ Frisseron, whom you will thereby de-
 “ prive of a customer.” “ Ay, indeed,”
 “ said Janneton, “ my dear Miss Lyddy,
 “ Madame would never forgive you, if
 “ she knew it : but I am sure, when we
 “ have finished our tea, you will consent
 “ to my spreading the patterns once more
 “ before you : — I cannot now, Miss
 “ Byersley, repeat all our conversation ;
 “ and if I were able, you would soon be
 “ tired.” ’Tis sufficient to say, that Janne-
 “ ton left the room in a short time, under
 “ pretence of fetching the ruffles, and that
 “ Mr. Ramsden then took an opportu-
 “ nity to bestow a great many fine speeches
 “ on

“ on me, and to declare, that he had a
 “ sincere regard for me. I was too much
 “ pleased with him to shew any dislike,
 “ —and my eyes sufficiently proved, tho’
 “ words were wanting, that my heart was
 “ enchanted with him. I was, however,
 “ not so infatuated as to forget where I
 “ sat, and therefore hurried into the shop,
 “ to look for Janneton, whom I found
 “ at work behind the counter, as un-
 “ concerned as if she had forgot I was
 “ in the house. I reproached her gently,
 “ for leaving me ; but my lover and she
 “ both seem’d to think, that I was not se-
 “ riously displeased. He attended me
 “ home, and begged to see me as often as
 “ possible. As I could, without being
 “ suspected, contrive an errand to the
 “ same place, almost every day, I seldom
 “ fail’d ; and, as the summer season ad-
 “ vanced, Mrs. Frisferon had a great deal
 “ of leisure, and went out of town, leav-
 “ ing directions with Janneton, who ne-
 “ ver appeared so happy as when she was
 “ obliging Mr. Ramsden and myself, by
 “ bringing us together. This part of my
 I 4 “ life,

“ life, was far the happiest.—Afterwards
 “ I met with a variety of disappointments
 “ and vexations.

“ MR. Ramsden and I soon came, as
 “ you may imagine, to an explanation. I
 “ loved him too sincerely to deceive him,
 “ and he was as generously fond of me :
 “ he own’d that he in some measure de-
 “ pended on an indulgent father, who
 “ would not, he flattered himself, op-
 “ pose a match so essential to his happi-
 “ ness ; but believed that his mother
 “ would rather chuse to have him allied
 “ to rank and fortune. “ However,” said
 “ he, “ As I am her favourite, I hope I
 “ shall prevail on her to comply.”—I
 “ told him, that I could not bear the
 “ thoughts of being the cause of his dis-
 “ appointing a good mother’s expecta-
 “ tions ; but he always silenc’d me by de-
 “ claring, that he could never be happy
 “ without me, and that he wished for
 “ nothing more than to raise the most de-
 “ serving of her sex to a station she was
 “ made to adorn. Such a declaration, you
 “ may

“ may be sure, won my heart. In short,
 “ I was charm’d with his disinterested
 “ passion, and the decency of his beha-
 “ viour, and freely confessed that he
 “ alone had it in his power to make me
 “ a happy woman.

“ We were in this situation when the
 “ return of winter brought Mrs. Frisferon
 “ and Mrs. Flurry to town. The arrival
 “ of the first lady was a great interrup-
 “ tion to us, as my work, which required
 “ her inspection, was finished; yet, by the
 “ contrivance of Janneton, we still met
 “ till the last came. I was then too
 “ closely watch’d to get out often. Mr.
 “ Ramsden and I, therefore, agreed to
 “ write to each other; our letters were
 “ convey’d by a footman, whom he had
 “ bribed to secrecy. As I was permitted
 “ to go to church (a place Mrs. Flurry
 “ seldom honoured with her presence)
 “ every Sunday, the trusty valet constantly
 “ attended there; so that we had frequent
 “ opportunities to unbosom ourselves.—
 “ But, as this restraint grew more and

“ more disagreeable ; my lover resolved
 “ to solicit his father’s consent, and pre-
 “ vail on him to influence his mother.
 “ But it happened unluckily that his fa-
 “ ther went into the country on the very
 “ day he intended to speak to him.

“ HAD I not been in love, my time would
 “ have passed away very uncomfortably ;
 “ for my godmother’s ill humour increas’d
 “ every hour ; and Mrs. Sippet hated
 “ me, because she found Mr. Stubble’s
 “ affections were alienated. Honest Mar-
 “ tha, indeed, continued to be very o-
 “ bliging ; but I was seldom allowed to
 “ see her, being, for the most part, con-
 “ fined to Mrs. Flurry’s dressing-room,
 “ where I was employed either to curl
 “ her hair, or comb Waddle’s ears, when
 “ I was not at work. These tasks, Sip-
 “ pet (notwithstanding her envy) re-
 “ signed to me, that she might not be
 “ troubled with them.

“ ONE day an accident befel poor Wad-
 “ dle’s ears, which almost occasioned the
 “ loss.

“ loss of my own. The little beast was
 “ so excessively sluggish, that he gene-
 “ rally lay near the hearth, and made
 “ himself so dirty, that Mrs. Flurry would
 “ have him washed By Mrs. Sippet’s
 “ desire, I was pitch’d upon for that cere-
 “ mony. A tub of water was order’d to
 “ be got ready in the dressing-room. The
 “ dog was placed near it on a cushion,
 “ and I prepared, on my knees, to go
 “ through the ablution. Mrs. Sippet,
 “ whose chief joy was to find fault with
 “ me, cried, “ La, Miss; you will ne-
 “ ver get the poor thing clean in that
 “ manner ; he ought to be foused in at
 “ once, in order to kill all his fleas.”
 “ This advice I too hastily followed ; for
 “ the water proved too hot for the little
 “ wretch, who yelped so hideously that his
 “ enraged lady rose up, and without any
 “ ceremony, pull’d both my ears with
 “ such violence, that I expected to have
 “ seen them in her hand : my screams
 “ were then added to Waddle’s, which,
 “ with Sippet’s exclamations, and Mrs.
 “ Flurry’s Billingsgate mouthing, made
 I 6 “ a noise

“ a noise not altogether unlike the confusion at Babel. I was so frightened and
 “ stunn’d, that I was for some moments
 “ deaf to her rhetoric ; the first intelligible words were these : “ You audacious hussy, how did you dare to use
 “ the poor creature in this manner ; but,
 “ as I am a living woman, I’ll have your
 “ dainty face, Mrs. Minx, served in the
 “ same way. I will, depend upon it, and
 “ then your beauty will bespoil’d, I warrant,
 “ you barbarous devil you !” Then turning to the animal, who was really more afraid than hurt ; not having been used to
 “ the water) she cried, “ Poor dear little
 “ creature, how I suffer for thee ! I am,
 “ indeed, to blame for putting you into
 “ that careless monster’s hands.” She
 “ then addressed herself to me : “ Out of
 “ my sight, wretch ! get up into your
 “ room, and be sure to blubber as much
 “ as you can ; it will spoil your eyes and
 “ keep you from being at the fellows.”
 “ I retired, full of tears and indignation
 “ at my treatment, but endeavoured to
 “ compose

“ compose myself, in order to wait on
 “ Mrs. Harcourt, who was just come to
 “ town ; for I could not suppose that I
 “ should be deprived of that pleasure, for
 “ having dipp’d a lap-dog : but I was mis-
 “ taken ; for Mrs. Flurry, intending to
 “ punish me thoroughly, forbad me to stir
 “ out : I was therefore kept a close pri-
 “ soner all day in my chamber, where
 “ I comforted myself as well as I could,
 “ by reading my lover’s letters, an addi-
 “ tion to which, I that evening expected :
 “ nor was I disappointed : the faithful va-
 “ let brought me one about dusk, and
 “ that made amends for all my sufferings.
 “ I spent the remainder of the evening
 “ in writing an answer to it, which I
 “ put into my pocket, in order to give it
 “ to Harry in the morning.

“ WHEN the morning came, I met
 “ with a fresh disaster : for, as soon as I
 “ entered Mrs. Flurry’s dressing-room, Sip-
 “ pet told me that Waddle’s bells were
 “ lost, and that her lady was very angry
 “ with me, because the dog had them on.
 “ when.

“ when I washed him. When I came
 “ within sight of my godmother, her anger
 “ was increased, and she roar’d out, “ So,
 “ Trollop, “ What have you done with my
 “ dog’s bells, creature ? Hay !” “ I have
 “ not seen them, Madam,” said I :—“ Not
 “ seen them,” said she, “ when it was
 “ you who put the dear soul into the wa-
 “ ter. you beast you.” “ I am sure, Ma-
 “ dam,” said Sippet, “ she must have seen
 “ them ; for she undressed the pretty
 “ creature for his washing : “ Aye,
 “ and I’ll lay my life she has : feel her
 “ pockets, Sippet : I am sure they are
 “ there.” This order, which Sippet was go-
 “ ing to obey, provok’d me beyond every
 “ thing ; especially as I knew that my lo-
 “ ver’s letters must thereby be discover’d.
 “ I therefore determin’d to prevent such
 “ a discovery at all events, and, putting
 “ my hands into my pockets, said reso-
 “ lutely to Sippet, “ I will feel myself,
 “ tho’ I know they are not in them.”
 “ You know they are not in them,”
 “ cried Mrs. Flurry, and who will take
 “ your word, pray ?” “ Sippet, I say,
 “ rummage her pockets this moment ; I
 “ will

“ will be obey’d.” Sippet then advanced
 “ again, but I told her fiercely, that
 “ she should not touch me: “ Not
 “ touch you,” said Mrs. Flurry, tremb-
 “ ling with passion; “ not touch you,
 “ you insolent huffy? Seize her this in-
 “ stant, bring her to me, and I’ll hold
 “ her while you examine her pockets :
 “ Shall a creature I keep out of charity
 “ dare to dispute my will?” I was then
 “ no longer able to defend myself; and
 “ therefore obliged to submit to such in-
 “ jurious treatment. The first thing which
 “ fell into my searcher’s hands was the
 “ letter which I had written to Mr.
 “ Ramsden : as my godmother was very
 “ quick-sighted, she immediately snatched
 “ it from her. No words can express the
 “ variety of passions which appeared in
 “ her countenance, when she read the su-
 “ perscription : for to her former rage
 “ was then added a malicious joy, at hav-
 “ ing found a new opportunity to tor-
 “ ment me, and a surprize at the unex-
 “ pected discovery. “ And so, Madam,”
 “ said she, with a contemptuous smile,
 “ you correspond with Mr. Ramsden, do
 “ you ?

“ you? Pray, is it with the father, or
 “ the son; for I know them both, and
 “ shall take the liberty to peruse your
 “ epistle?” She then broke the seals, and
 “ began to read aloud, when marmoset,
 “ (the constant attendant on his lady) to
 “ whom she had drawn her chair nearer
 “ than usual, thro’ her eagerness to cor-
 “ rect me, snatched my unfortunate let-
 “ ter, and, after a few arch grimaces,
 “ tore it in a thousand pieces, before she
 “ could rise to prevent the mischief.

“ Mrs. Flurry, who doated on the ug-
 “ ly animal, and would have forgiven him
 “ freely, for breaking her finest set of
 “ Dresden china, or demolishing her best
 “ lappets, could not pardon him on this
 “ occasion; because he prevented her from
 “ gratifying her curiosity and revenge.
 “ She did not therefore accost him with
 “ her usual tenderness, but tried to wrest
 “ the shatter’d remains of my *billet-doux*
 “ from him, while Sippet pick’d up the
 “ pieces which he strewed on the floor.
 “ Whether pug resented his lady’s want
 “ of

“ of civility, or retained his prize thro’
 “ obstinacy, I cannot tell, but he cramm’d
 “ it into his mouth, and flew at her with
 “ such violence, that a large quantity of
 “ blood followed directly ; which, added
 “ to the natural carmine of her cheeks
 “ and the fury she was in, made her one
 “ of the most horrid objects I had ever
 “ beheld. She shrieked so loudly, and
 “ was so loudly eccho’d by her faith-
 “ ful mimic Sippet, that two or three
 “ servants ran up stairs. While they
 “ were busied in enquiring after the
 “ cause of such an outcry and so
 “ much blood-shed, I slipped by them,
 “ and hurried to my own apartment ;
 “ highly pleased to have found means to
 “ escape the punishment I every moment
 “ expected ; for I could hear my god-
 “ mother railing at me most vehemently,
 “ protesting that I was the cause of all
 “ the confusion, and vowing to make me
 “ smart for it severely.

“ AFTER I had been about half an
 “ hour in my room, almost stupified with
 “ grief

" grief and vexation, Martha came, and
 " thus, in a kind of flutter, addressed me :
 " Good Lord, Miss, what have you done
 " to intrage my lady so? Mrs. Sippet
 " and John declare they never saw her in
 " such a passion in their lives : tho', to be
 " sure, all the house knows she is a very
 " furious woman when she is vexed :
 " nay, Mrs. Sippet says, she verily be-
 " lieves she could kill you, and if Ma-
 " dam Harcourt had not comed in, in
 " the middle of the uproar, before my
 " lady thought of denying herself, who
 " knows what mought have happened?"
 " Is Mrs. Harcourt below, then," said I
 " calmly? " Yes, indeed is she," con-
 " tinued Martha ; and it is very well
 " for you she is, or else, my lady, as I
 " was saying before, would certainly do
 " you a mischief : but Madam Harcourt
 " is a good gentlewoman, and knows
 " that servants are flesh and blood as
 " well as more better people." I know
 " not how long Martha would have run
 " on had not Sippet put a stop to her ha-
 " rangue, by beginning one of her own,
 " in

“ in the following manner : “ So Miss,
 “ you have made a fine piece of work
 “ to-day, truly, I think ; but it is all
 “ over with you in this house, I can as-
 “ sure you ; for I am come to tell you
 “ to pack up your things, and get rea-
 “ dy to go with Mrs. Harcourt, who has,
 “ at last, prevailed on my lady to part
 “ with you. A merciful lady she is, I
 “ am sure, to let you go, after all the
 “ confusion you have made : this comes
 “ of hankering after fellows : but, come,
 “ come, make haste, I can’t stand still all
 “ day, to wait on you.” “ Why, Mrs.
 “ Sippet,” said I, very much nettled at
 “ her freedom, “ I don’t desire your
 “ company.” “ Don’t you, indeed,” re-
 “ plied she pertly ; “ why, truly, I don’t
 “ believe you do : what ? I suppose you
 “ want to send word to the gentleman,
 “ where you are going ; but my lady will
 “ take care to prevent that ; she will go
 “ to Mrs. Ramsden herself, by and by,
 “ and tell her all about you ; and has
 “ charged me to stay with you ’till you
 “ are ready to go.—I suppose you want
 “ to

“ to give us the slip, and run away with
 “ your sweet-heart. O fie ! Miss, so
 “ young and so forward ; indeed, ’tis a
 “ shame ! ” “ Humph,” said Martha,
 “ (muttering ;) “ I say, a shame, truly ;
 “ Some folks would be glad of lovers,
 “ if they could get them, I believe—
 “ there’s no harm in it, as I know of ;
 “ and if my lady won’t allow of that, why
 “ she may soon come to wait on herself ;
 “ and, if ’tis a crime to be young and
 “ pretty, I know who will never have
 “ that to answer for ; no thanks to them
 “ tho’—” After Martha had thus vented
 “ herself she went down ; and Sippet, too
 “ much taken up with snubbing me to
 “ attend her, only cried, “ What’s all
 “ that prating about ? I wish Martha
 “ would mind her own business, and not
 “ talk of what she don’t understand ; but
 “ such low-life creatures, as my lady says,
 “ will be for giving their sentiments, tho’
 “ no body minds them.”

“ I WAS presently ready, and went
 “ down stairs, without troubling my
 “ head

“ head about Sippet, who continued to
 “ talk to me; when we came to the
 “ parlour-door, she readily pulled me
 “ back, and said, “ Why, sure, Miss,
 “ you can never think of looking my
 “ lady in the face again; I can tell you,
 “ if you do, she won’t suffer it.—Here,
 “ John, tell Mrs. Harcourt that Miss is
 “ ready — for I must not leave her.”
 “ While we stood in the hall, near a
 “ quarter of an hour, I heard Mrs. Flur-
 “ ry’s voice louder than ordinary, the
 “ sound of which, I found somewhat ter-
 “ rified me; but Mrs. Harcourt soon
 “ appeared, and the affable reception she
 “ gave me, fill’d me with sorrow to think
 “ I had acted wrong: I was even afraid
 “ to look up to my gentle benefactress:
 “ so much greater is the influence which
 “ a mild behaviour has over a generous
 “ mind than a passionate one.

“ As soon as we were seated in the
 “ coach, and driven from the door, Mrs.
 “ Harcourt thus spoke to me: “ I have
 “ heard, my dear, a very bad story of
 “ you;

“ you ; but I make great allowances for
 “ violence of temper in every body, and
 “ should be glad to hear it from your
 “ own lips—I can also make allowances
 “ for the imprudence of youth, before it
 “ is won to obedience: therefore desire
 “ you will tell me every thing material
 “ which has occur’d, since you lived with
 “ your godmother.—Don’t be afraid
 “ or ashamed ; lay your whole heart open
 “ to me with sincerity, and I’ll do the
 “ best I can for you.” So kind and sen-
 “ sible a speech dissipated my fears, and
 “ gave me courage to relate every thing
 “ I had had a share in, except that part
 “ of my story which related to Mr. Ramf-
 “ den. As I knew I had acted, with re-
 “ gard to him, in a manner she would
 “ not approve of, I was very uneasy :
 “ however, in spite of my blushes and
 “ tears, I at last unfolded the whole affair
 “ exactly to her, and concluded with beg-
 “ ing her to forgive my hasty agreement
 “ to my lover’s proposals. She seem’d
 “ pleas’d with my frankness, and said,
 “ Well, my dear Liddy, you appear to
 “ be

“ be so conscious of your fault, that I
 “ have no occasion to set it in a more
 “ disagreeable light. But I can plainly
 “ see that the young gentleman is not in-
 “ different to you ; nor can I wonder at
 “ it, after the description you have gi-
 “ ven of his behaviour. Yet I know,
 “ when you consider the difference be-
 “ tween him and you, in point of for-
 “ tune, and how much an alliance with
 “ you may sully his character in the opi-
 “ nion of his relations (who will not pay
 “ any regard to your merit) you will the
 “ more easily give up all thoughts of
 “ so improper a match. I hope you will
 “ for the future take care not to contract
 “ any intimacies, without the approbation
 “ of your friends. I am sorry Mrs. Flur-
 “ ry is of so implacable a disposition ; for
 “ she will not yet be prevailed on to
 “ forgive you. She would indeed, have
 “ kept you ; but I was afraid to trust you
 “ to her passion. As this affair may hurt
 “ you, if it is blazed abroad, I shall say
 “ nothing of it, even at my own house.
 “ I need not caution you to forbear any
 “ farther

“ farther correspondence with Mr. Ramsden; as I am sure you must be convinced that it may be very prejudicial to you.”

“ You may imagine, Miss Byerley, how much I was charmed with Mrs. Harcourt’s friendly behaviour : it made me for a time even forget the loss of my lover. I could have thrown myself at her feet if she had been in her chamber, and thanked her in the humblest posture for all her kindness. I assured her, in very strong terms, that I would always follow her advice, and begged to be favoured with it. “ I will never,” said she, “ refuse you any thing, my dear, that may be of service to you. Whenever you stand in need of advice, apply to me, without any reserve : disguise nothing from me, and I will always be a friend.”

“ WHEN we came to her house, she presented me to my sister, who was then about twelve years old, and had greatly

“ improved herself under so discreet a
 “ monitress. As soon as I was left to my-
 “ self all that had happen’d seem’d like
 “ a dream. Mr. Ramsden was only up-
 “ permost in my thoughts. Every plea-
 “ sing circumstance that had attended our
 “ acquaintance; every tender word, look
 “ and action, returned with double force
 “ to my remembrance; and the very idea
 “ of giving him up almost distracted me,
 “ tho’ I knew I ought not to encourage
 “ his addresses after what Mrs. Harcourt
 “ had said, whose advice I promised to
 “ follow. I was, moreover, greatly dis-
 “ turbed to think that my lover might
 “ hold me in contempt, at a time
 “ when I could have laid down my life
 “ for him; not doubting but that Mrs.
 “ Flurry would fly to communicate all
 “ she knew to his father and mother,
 “ and endeavour to set me in an odious
 “ light.

“ Such was my situation for a long time,
 “ nor could the company Mrs. Harcourt
 “ introduced me to, nor the diversions
 Vol. I. K “ she

“ she procured for me, alleviate my anxiety,
 “ ery, or restore me to my wonted com-
 “ posure. I wonder’d that my lover
 “ found no opportunities to see, or write
 “ to me, (for I was not in the least con-
 “ fined) and had determin’d to acquaint
 “ Mrs. Harcourt both with his visits and
 “ his letters. Whether I should have
 “ kept my resolution, I cannot tell, for
 “ he never put it to the trial. I heard
 “ nothing of him for three years, during
 “ which, Mrs. Harcourt treated me with
 “ the greatest kindness, and I might have
 “ been extremely happy, had I been able
 “ to forget Mr. Ramsden : but all my
 “ efforts to banish him from my memory
 “ were fruitless. Time, tho’ it lessened
 “ my sorrow, could not entirely remove
 “ it.

“ Mrs. Harcourt continued to visit
 “ Mrs. Flurry, and did all she could to
 “ restore me to her favour ; but to no
 “ purpose : she was obstinately bent a-
 “ gainst me, nor was I much concerned
 “ about her good opinion. My sister
 “ and

“ and I lived together very harmoniously.
 “ She was a complete beauty, without
 “ being vain and assuming ; and had a
 “ *douceur* in her disposition, that made
 “ me exceedingly fond of her. When I
 “ enter’d into the twenty-first year of my
 “ age, Mr. Bootle, a gentleman who
 “ frequently visited the family, began to
 “ behave very particularly to me. He
 “ was about ten years older than me, but
 “ agreeable in his person, sensible and
 “ good-humour’d. As my head and
 “ heart were both full of another object,
 “ I paid little regard to his assiduities ;
 “ but, being naturally of a lively temper,
 “ I talk’d to him with the utmost free-
 “ dom, and thereby gain’d his affections :
 “ however, as he thought that Mrs. Har-
 “ court would not be pleased, if she had
 “ not early notice of his intentions, he
 “ declared them to her, and offered to
 “ take me without a fortune. She look’d
 “ upon this offer as too advantageous to
 “ be refused (for Mr. Bootle had a small
 “ estate, ten thousand pounds in the funds,

“ and no relations to controul him) and
 “ therefore immediately informed me of
 “ his proposal : but it was not so well
 “ received as she expected. Mr. Rams-
 “ den had made so great an impression on
 “ my heart, that I could not possibly
 “ efface it ; tho’ I believed he had forgot
 “ me, and was convinced that his family
 “ would never consent to our union, were
 “ he still desirous of it. I told her then
 “ the time I spent with her was the hap-
 “ piest I had ever known, and only
 “ begg’d to continue with her, if I was
 “ not troublesome. “ I am very far
 “ from thinking you troublesome, my
 “ dear,” replied the good lady ; “ on
 “ the contrary, your behaviour and con-
 “ versation have been perfectly agreeable
 “ to me.—But I am not young—and were
 “ I to leave you unsettled, what will be-
 “ come of you ? Your mother is wholly
 “ taken up with her husband and young
 “ daughter,” (I had forgot to tell you
 “ that my mother, tho’ she wrote very
 “ seldom, had informed us of the birth
 “ of

“ of a new sister—) “ so that I fear she
 “ will not take proper care of you. Think,
 “ therefore, my dear child, what a situa-
 “ tion you will be in—exposed to the
 “ wide world, without a friend to assist
 “ you.—Besides, what objection can you
 “ have to Mr. Bootle? He is very good-
 “ natur’d; he has an easy fortune, and; I
 “ am very sure, a true esteem for you:
 “ otherwise he never would have acted in
 “ so disinterested a manner.” I could not
 “ oppose this reasoning; I was awed by
 “ the love, gratitude, and respect I bore
 “ to Mrs. Harcourt, and only answer’d
 “ that I would always follow her pru-
 “ dent admonitions. She replied, “ I
 “ hope, my dear Lyddy, you will have
 “ no cause to repent.

“ MR. Bootle, having permission, from
 “ that time, to come as often as he would,
 “ to visit me; I received him with my usual
 “ complacency: he soon grew vastly fond
 “ of me, and hasten’d the preparations
 “ for his wedding-day. Mrs. Harcourt
 K 3 “ pretended

“ presented five hundred pounds to me
 “ to buy, as she said, my wedding-clothes.
 “ I was very much delighted, and said
 “ and did every thing I thought would in-
 “ crease her esteem for me, and found
 “ that the surest way to testify my grati-
 “ tude, was to seem well satisfied with
 “ the husband she recommended to me.
 “ He too made several handsome presents
 “ to Mrs. Harcourt, Fanny, and myself,
 “ and we were quite a family of joy.

“ Mr. Bootle took and furnish'd a
 “ house according to my taste; my clothes
 “ were made with the utmost expedition,
 “ and I was destin'd to be a bride in three
 “ days. One morning, before the third
 “ day arriv'd, Mrs. Harcourt went to see
 “ a relation at Kensington who had been
 “ dangerously ill, and Mr. Bootle, as he
 “ had some business in that neighbour-
 “ hood accompanied her. As I was sit-
 “ ting in my chamber at work with my
 “ sister, one of the servants came to me,
 “ and said a gentleman desired to speak
 “ to me. I went down stairs immediate-
 “ ly,

“ ly, thinking to meet one of my trades-
 “ men : but how great was my surprize
 “ to behold Mr. Ramsden in deep mourn-
 “ ing ! He flew to me as swift as light-
 “ ning, caught me in his arms ; and cried
 “ out in the fondest accents : “ My love,
 “ my life, my Liddy !—do I once more
 “ press thee to my panting bosom !——
 “ What exquisite transports !” —He was
 “ running on in this rapturous manner
 “ when I started back, and faintly replied,
 “ O Mr. Ramsden ! — why do I see you
 “ now ?—Why did I not see you before ?”
 “ Here I stooped ;—for the surprize was too
 “ great for me, and I fainted away.

“ WHEN I came to myself, I found
 “ him hanging over me, and tenderly
 “ complaining of his unkind reception.—
 “ I was indeed,” said he, “ afraid of such
 “ a change.—’Twas irksome, I confess, to
 “ wait three long years.—But say, my
 “ Liddy, have you met with a happier
 “ lover ; and are you irrecoverably lost ?”
 “ I am, indeed,” returned I, “ but do
 “ not chide me—for I am not to blame.
 “ —I thought I never could be yours.—I

“ have never heard from you.”—“ Never
 “ heard from me ?” said he ; “ I did not
 “ know it, tho’ I had many fears about
 “ the miscarriage of my letters.—But tell
 “ me, my love ? (for you are still my
 “ love) tell me what has happen’d ; and
 “ whether all my hopes of happiness must
 “ prove abortive ? “ It is too late, too
 “ late for me to hope,” said I, “ but why
 “ do I complain.—I never should have
 “ encouraged the most distant thought of
 “ one so much superior to me.” “ Let
 “ not such reflections disturb your peace,”
 “ said he ; “ the chief obstacle is now re-
 “ moved.—My mother is dead ; and my
 “ father consents to make me happy with
 “ my dearest Liddy, whom I have ever
 “ loved with the truest, the tenderest af-
 “ fection. My long absence was involun-
 “ tary ; I was not at home when my mo-
 “ ther discovered our amour, which she
 “ carefully conceal’d from me, and desir’d
 “ me to go with her to my father who
 “ was in the country. I obey’d, but first
 “ wrote to you, and left my servant in
 “ town on purpose to give it to Harry
 “ for

“ for you, and take care of your answer.
 “ Harry neither came nor sent: I was half
 “ mad at the disappointment, and, being
 “ eager to come to see you, determin’d to
 “ come to town myself. Here I met with
 “ a second disappointment more severe, if
 “ possible, than the first. My father in-
 “ sisted on my going to Dover with him,
 “ to dine on board one of the packet-
 “ boats, the captain of which was his in-
 “ timate friend. As I did not in the least
 “ suspect his intentions, I consented rea-
 “ dily, tho’ much surpris’d to hear that
 “ my mother intended to go with us. But
 “ after dinner, my surprize was consider-
 “ ably increas’d; for then both told me
 “ that they were bent upon taking a trip
 “ to France. I asked the cause of their
 “ sudden resolution: they told me they
 “ had long thought of such a tour, and
 “ could not embrace a better opportuni-
 “ ty. I had often, indeed, heard them
 “ mention their design, and was only asto-
 “ nished at the abrupt execution of it:
 “ grieved to leave you, and uneasy about
 “ my servant’s return. One remedy,
 K 5 “ however,

“ however, was left, and I made use of
 “ it as soon as we arrived. I wrote to a
 “ particular friend, to whom I thought
 “ I might safely communicate an account
 “ of our loves, and intreated him to de-
 “ liver a letter to you, and forward your
 “ answer to me, as privately and quick
 “ as he could : but I received no answer
 “ from him ; so that my patience was al-
 “ most exhausted. At last, a letter came
 “ from him, written by a different per-
 “ son, full of apologies for not writing
 “ before. He said that illness alone had
 “ prevented him, and that he was even
 “ then forced to employ his servant,
 “ not being able to hold a pen : that he
 “ had carefully enquired after you, but
 “ could gain no satisfactory account ;
 “ having only heard you was gone from
 “ Mrs. Flurry’s with a lady, who had
 “ taken you and your sister to Brussels, at
 “ your mother’s request, who was mar-
 “ ried there to a very rich merchant. This
 “ news increased my uneasiness about you,
 “ for I did not know your mother’s name :

“ I resolved, however, to set out for that
 “ place, and had procured my father’s
 “ consent when the many anxieties I la-
 “ boured under, threw me into a raging
 “ fever; from which, with the utmost dif-
 “ ficulty, I recovered. When the phy-
 “ cians pronounced that I was out of dan-
 “ ger, my nerves were become so ex-
 “ tremely weak, that they advised me to
 “ try the baths of Aix-la-Chapelle; and
 “ my father and mother, who were appa-
 “ rently very fond of me, soon agreed to
 “ carry me thither. I could not resist
 “ their importunities, because they seemed
 “ to proceed from excess of affection, (as
 “ they had most tenderly watched me dur-
 “ ing my illness) nor did I suspect that
 “ they knew the secrets of my heart.
 “ These delays only served to retard my
 “ cure; so that a year elapsed before I
 “ could bear the fatigue of travelling :
 “ and just as I had made all necessary
 “ preparations for my journey to Brus-
 “ sels, my father pretended to receive a
 “ letter from his banker there, about par-
 “ ticular business, in which the following
 “ article was inserted.”

" We have lately had a splendid wedding here : the bride is one of your acquaintances, Miss Lydia Calden : ~~she was~~ her mother (having married here ~~very advantageously~~) sent for her, and ~~in the evening~~ a young gentleman fell ~~in love with her~~. Last week the nuptials ~~were celebrated~~ with great *eclass*."

" The letter came by the post, when we were all sitting together one afternoon. After my father had open'd it, he said with a serious air, " My eyes are so much so-er, that I wish, Tom, you would read it for me." I obey'd. As the first part of it related to mercantile affairs, I did not regard it; but you may easily imagine how much I was shock'd at the intelligence about my Lydia. In short, my old disorder attack'd me more furiously than ever, and the doctors peremptorily declar'd that I must reside at Aix till my cure was completed. Having lost (as I imagin'd) all I valued in the world, I grew very indifferent about it, and therefore complied with the intreaties of
" my

“ my friends. We did not return to Pa-
 “ ris till the following summer : they
 “ then tried to divert my melancholy, by
 “ visiting every place of note, and mak-
 “ ing parties continually with the English
 “ gentry there ; especially with young
 “ ladies of family and fortune, in hopes
 “ that I should be smitten with one of
 “ them ; but my affection for you was
 “ too deeply rooted : I did not even
 “ blame what you had done, because I
 “ imagin’d that you was not your own
 “ mistress, and that you was utterly igno-
 “ rant of my situation.” Thus we passed
 “ our time in a constant hurry of plea-
 “ sure ; for I shewed not inclination to re-
 “ turn to England, when I had reason
 “ to believe you had quitted it for ever.
 “ Three months ago, my mother was
 “ seized with an apoplexy which soon
 “ carried her off. One day, while her
 “ senses remain’d, she call’d me to her
 “ bed-side, and begg’d I would forgive
 “ her what she had done : “ If you do
 “ not,” said she, “ I can never die in
 “ peace. Mrs. Flurry, discovered to me
 “ your engagement with Miss Calden,
 “ whom

“ whom I thought so vastly beneath you,
 “ that I prevail’d on your father to go
 “ abroad ; not knowing a more effectual
 “ method to separate you. As he was
 “ always fond of me, he readily came in-
 “ to all my measures, and join’d with
 “ me in concerting those schemes which
 “ prov’d, alas ! but too successful : ’twas
 “ I that prevented your servant from
 “ following you : ’twas I that intercepted
 “ the letter you wrote to your friend in
 “ town, and prompted your father to
 “ forge an answer, which made you be-
 “ lieve your mistress was at Brussels :
 “ and, to make you the more easily cre-
 “ dit the account, your father inserted the
 “ paragraph about the marriage, in the
 “ letter he receiv’d from his banker there.
 “ I am now grieved to think, that I have
 “ done any thing to make so good a son
 “ unhappy ; and will employ the remain-
 “ der of my life in asking your forgive-
 “ ness, and intreating your father to re-
 “ turn to England, and consent to your
 “ union.

“ WHAT

“ WHAT could I say, my dear Lydia,
 “ to a mother so affectingly circum-
 “ stanc’d ? She died in a few days after-
 “ wards. My father and I soon left Pa-
 “ ris. I have gain’d his consent, and am
 “ now come to offer you my heart, my
 “ hand, and my fortune. What can now
 “ prevent our union ?” What you was
 “ so apprehensive of,” said I, “ my union
 “ with another ?” “ But you are
 “ not married yet,” “ said he, “ for
 “ I enquired before I came.” “ I am
 “ not yet, indeed,” said I, “ but shall
 “ be in a very short time—every thing is
 “ settled—my word is given, and I can-
 “ not go back : I must therefore bid you
 “ farewell, for ever.” “ Cruel Lydia,”
 “ said he, “ have I then suffered so ma-
 “ ny anxious hours, only to gaze at you
 “ a few moments—only to see you in the
 “ arms of a rival. O, do not, do not
 “ make me completely wretched !”
 “ Alas !” said I, with my eyes full of
 “ tears, and my heart ready to burst,
 “ what can I do ? I was persuaded by
 “ the best, the only friend I have in the
 “ world

“ world, to — “ Perhaps,” cried he hastily, “ when this good friend, and this too happy rival hear that you were engaged to me, they will relent, and resign my Lydia to her first and fondest lover. Will not my dearest consent, if they do ? But why do I ask that needless question ? I see by her unaffected surprize at the sight of me, and those streaming eyes, that I am still esteemed by my lovely girl.—

“ Don’t flatter yourself, with such delusive hopes,” replied I, sighing “ we cannot be united—nor must I any longer listen to you. You see too plainly how much power you have over me—leave me, I beseech you, for I dare not hear you ; but must learn to bear my hapless lot with patience. Farewel.—Endeavour to forget me—may you be happy with one who is more deserving of you than I am, and who will love you as well as I have.” Just as I finished my speech a violent rap at the street-door alarm’d us both. “ Good heavens !”
“ cried

“ cried I, “ Mrs. Harcourt and Mr.
 “ Bootle are return’d. If you ever had
 “ any value for me, Sir, quit this place
 “ instantly, and banish all remembrance
 “ of the unfortunate Lydia !” I then
 “ broke from him, and ran up stairs.
 “ Fanny was quite frighten’d at the wild-
 “ ness of my behaviour. I flung myself
 “ into a chair, and gave way to the most
 “ poignant sorrow I ever felt in my life.

MRS. Bootle was so much affected
 with this part of her narrative, that she
 could not for some moments proceed ;
 nor could Charlotte, who always sympa-
 thiz’d with those who seem’d to deserve
 pity, scarcely refrain from tears. She
 commended her friend’s resolution, which
 she thought, was the more extraordinary,
 as the person who attempted to shake it was
 so every-way agreeable. “ But, said she,
 to speak freely, “ you were once absolutely
 “ engag’d to Mr. Ramsden ; and I think
 “ he had a prior right.” “ In strict jus-
 “ tice,” said Mrs. Bootle, “ I believe he
 “ had.” “ But oh ! Miss Byersley, I must
 “ not

“ not dwell on past scenes. My heart is still Mr. Ramsden’s.” She then continued her story.

“ My sister did and said every thing to comfort me, but to very little purpose : she could indeed hardly learn from me the cause of my affliction. Mrs. Harcourt soon came to try her soothing arts, or else I don’t know how long I might have been in a desponding way. “ My dear Lydia,” said she, “ this is an unlucky affair.” “ Oh ! Madam,” said I, “ I am undone for ever. “ What will become of me ?” “ Be patient, my dear,” said she, and think how fortunate it was that Mr. Bootle did not return as he at first design’d. “ I have talk’d with the young gentleman, who begins to hear reason, and only laments that he arrived so late. “ You, my dear, will also, I am convinced be much easier, when you give yourself time to reflect.” “ O no, Madam,” replied I.—“ Reflection kills me—I cannot bear my own thoughts
“ —I

—I am almost distracted—Is there no
 “ remedy ? ” “ None,” answered she,
 “ that I can recollect ; for as there was
 “ no contract or written engagement be-
 “ tween you, ’tis impossible to leave Mr.
 “ Bootle honourably : and I am sure you
 “ have too great a regard for your repu-
 “ tation to act otherwise, when the vio-
 “ lence of your surprize is somewhat
 “ abated : you will, I doubt not, be re-
 “ conciled to what you now exclaim a-
 “ gainst : besides,” continued she, “ how
 “ do you know that old Mr. Rams-
 “ den actually agrees to the proposal
 “ of his son, whose ungovern’d passi-
 “ on might have spurr’d him to gain
 “ your consent at any rate ; but, from
 “ the character I have heard of the old
 “ gentleman I cannot believe he is of so
 “ yielding a disposition. Think then,
 “ how miserable you wou’d be yourself,
 “ and make your lover, by causing a
 “ difference between him and his father.
 “ Will you not be infinitely happier, my
 “ dear child, with a man who has no
 “ relations to bias or controul him ; and
 “ of

“ of whose affections you will be for
 “ mistress ?

“ WITH such arguments did Mrs. Har-
 “ court try to lessen my anxiety ; but they
 “ were too weak. I told her that if I
 “ consented to be an unhappy victim, I
 “ could do no more ; and that I could
 “ not help regretting the loss of a man
 “ whom I had loved so long, and whom
 “ I had so much reason to esteem.

“ THE good lady, finding all she said
 “ only tended to encrease my uneasiness,
 “ desisted : begging, however, to know
 “ what she should say to Mr. Bootle, by
 “ way of excuse for the condition I was
 “ in. Say what you please, madam,” re-
 “ plied I, “ I am very ill, and fear I
 “ shall be worse. These words of mine
 “ were prophetic, for before night I was
 “ in a high fever, which continued several
 “ days without intermission, and made
 “ me delirious. As soon as it abated, I
 “ began to reflect on my situation, and
 “ wish’d for nothing but death to relieve
 “ me

“ me from the misery I endured. I was
 “ denied the only consolation which the
 “ wretched enjoy, the liberty of com-
 “ plaining; for Mrs. Bootle constantly
 “ attended my bed-side, and shewed the
 “ greatest concern, in order to revive my
 “ drooping spirits. Time and youth, at
 “ length, got the better of my disorder,
 “ but my mind was still very much di-
 “ sturbed. I refrained from enquiring
 “ after Mr. Ramsden, because I endea-
 “ voured to forget him, that I might do
 “ justice to Mr. Bootle, the sincerity of
 “ whose affection I could no longer sus-
 “ pect. Mrs. Harcourt was tenderer to
 “ me than ever, and greatly commended
 “ my prudence. I recovered a-pace, and
 “ was soon afterwards married.

“ After the ceremony was over, Mr.
 “ Bootle went, at my request, to his
 “ estate in ———shire, which had a small
 “ farm belonging to it: There we pass’d
 “ almost a year. Mr. Bootle, who was
 “ fonder of the town, then shew’d an in-
 “ clination to visit it, and I readily ac-
 “ quiesced

“ quiesced. We were received by Mrs.
 “ Harcourt and my sister, with the utmost
 “ cheerfulness ; and I learnt from the lat-
 “ ter, that Mr. Ramsden was retired to his
 “ father’s country-seat. I rejoiced at this
 “ news, and regained my usual tranquili-
 “ ty of mind. Mr. Bootle seemed to
 “ study nothing but my happiness ; he
 “ had always been a frequenter of the
 “ public diversions, and often told me
 “ that his taste for them was greatly in-
 “ creas’d, by having so agreeable a partner
 “ to share them. I was myself very fond
 “ of theatrical diversions : so that we led
 “ a merry life, and enjoyed our pleasure
 “ without interruption, because we had
 “ no body to please but ourselves. A-
 “ mong the acquaintance we contracted,
 “ your mama, my dear Miss Byersley, was
 “ the most agreeable, and I esteem’d her
 “ beyond all the rest. But I will not
 “ here enlarge on her merit. ’Tis suf-
 “ ficient to say, that we took a fancy to
 “ each other, and agreed to correspond
 “ whenever we were separated. We had
 “ soon occasion to exercise our pens ; for
 “ Mr.

“ Mr. Bootle was obliged to visit the
 “ country earlier than he intended. In
 “ short, his taste was above his circum-
 “ stances ; and, as he had a great aver-
 “ sion to the business he was bred to, (the
 “ law) he chose rather to retrench at
 “ his little farm, than to enter into a new
 “ way of life in town. Accordingly,
 “ after we had been married four years,
 “ we set out to our retreat, where he spent
 “ four years more, and then left me a
 “ widow, in narrow circumstances : and
 “ my income would have been less, if
 “ your papa had not kindly undertook
 “ the management of my affairs. Just
 “ before my husband’s death, I was so un-
 “ fortunate as to lose Mrs. Harcourt, who
 “ left me five hundred, and my sister two
 “ thousand pounds, in consideration of
 “ her being unprovided for. My sister
 “ wrote several letters to me, giving an
 “ account of her illness and death, and
 “ in her last she told me, she boarded with
 “ an acquaintance of her dear benefac-
 “ tress’s.

“ AFTER

“ AFTER the death of Mr. Bootle, I
 “ was obliged to come to London ; for
 “ tho’ he left me every thing in his power ;
 “ yet the estate, as we had no child, def-
 “ cended to the next male heir. Besides
 “ this obligation, I wanted to see my
 “ Fanny, and wrote a letter to her, to
 “ let her know when I should be with
 “ her ; but how great was my astonish-
 “ ment to receive the following an-
 “ swer ?”

“ My dearest Sister,
 “ **S**OMETHING has happen’d which
 “ will render our meeting impossible.
 “ I wish for it most earnestly, but should
 “ at this time be ashamed to see you. I
 “ cannot tell you more, because I love
 “ you too sincerely to wound your peace.
 “ I am going to a place where I hope for
 “ tranquility, tho’ I despair of happiness ;
 “ that I must never expect to find again.
 “ Had I been posses’d of your prudence
 “ and resolution, I should not have been
 “ thus distress’d. Think not too hardly
 “ of

“ of me, but forgive all the errors
“ of

“ Your ever affectionate sister,

“ Frances Calden.”

“ I was just going to set out when this
“ letter arrived : I thought it a very per-
“ plexing one, and did not know what to
“ make of it. As soon as I reached
“ London, I went to the house where
“ Fanny had told me she boarded ; but
“ the mistress of it said she had been gone
“ three days from her, and could give
“ no tidings concerning her. I inquired
“ very particularly after her manner of
“ life, while she was a boarder.” “ Your
“ sister, Madam,” said the landlady,
“ is, I believe, privately married to a
“ young gentleman who frequently visited
“ her. I asked his name, and place of
“ abode, both which she told me ; but
“ no such person was to be found, tho’ I
“ made the most diligent search after him.
“ I often called on this woman to know
Vol. I. L “ if

“ if she had seen or heard of either them
 “ or their servants ; but all my inquiries
 “ were in vain. I could not help think-
 “ ing that some gay man of the town,
 “ charmed with her youth and beauty,
 “ had gained her affections, and made
 “ away with her, after having satiated
 “ himself ; or that she being left to sor-
 “ row and remorse had been her own
 “ destroyer.

“ I LEAVE you to imagine, Miss By-
 “ ersley, how melancholy I must have
 “ been after three such losses ; but hea-
 “ ven, whose assistance I implored with
 “ sincerity and fervour, enabled me to
 “ bear them without repining. I also
 “ found many kind friends in town, who
 “ endeavoured to dissipate my gloomi-
 “ ness. From some of them I learnt
 “ that Mr. Ramsden, having been much
 “ pressed by his father to marry a young
 “ lady of fortune and merit, had yielded
 “ to his entreaties, about two years be-
 “ fore my husband's death.

“ SUCH

“ SUCH was my situation, Miss By-
 “ erley, when our intimacy began. I
 “ have since, you know, met with ano-
 “ ther loss, if the death of a mother, who,
 “ during the last twenty years of her life,
 “ scarcely took notice of me, can proper-
 “ ly be called one.

HERE Mrs. Bootle ended her narrative.
 When she had wiped away the tears which
 the recital of it occasion'd, Charlotte re-
 return'd her many thanks for the confi-
 dence she had repos'd in her. “ Thus
 “ you see, my dear,” said Mrs. Bootle,
 “ you are far from being the most un-
 “ happy of all women ; tho' I will allow
 “ you have reason to complain of Mr.
 “ Welford : yet time may, perhaps, bring
 “ about an eclarcissement, and make
 “ him appear in a more favourable light.
 “ If he left you out of fickleness, he is
 “ not worth a moment's thought : but if
 “ he has been deceived, he will, in all
 “ probability, return ; and you may both
 “ be able to clear up matters. As to
 L 2 “ lady

“ lady Tiers, she deserves not your re-
 “ gard, and hardly even your acquaint-
 “ tance. Her disposition and yours are
 “ widely different, and she may lead you
 “ into attachments, from which you will
 “ be puzzled to extricate your self. Be-
 “ fore I knew that your affections were
 “ engag’d to Welford, I must own I
 “ thought Frankly was most likely to
 “ gain them, and most worthy of them.
 “ But I could never advise any woman
 “ to give her hand, except she can give
 “ her heart at the same time. I have
 “ myself paid too dear for such a sacri-
 “ fice.” “ You say right, Madam,” said
 Charlotte, “ for by a marriage of that
 “ sort, a woman not only renders herself
 “ unhappy, but very much injures the
 “ man whom she encourages. Mr. Frank-
 “ ly has, I think, a great deal of merit,
 “ and I am under particular obligations
 “ to him ; but as I feel not the least pro-
 “ pensity to love him, I should very un-
 “ gratefully requite the service he has
 “ done me, by taking him for a husband :
 “ for that marriage must be wretched.
 “ indeed,

“ indeed, where the affection is not reci-
 “ procal. As my father is so indulgent
 “ as to leave me free to chuse, I shall
 “ prefer a single life till I meet with a
 “ man who can inspire me with the
 “ same tender sentiments I have, to my
 “ cost, already felt.” “ You are quite
 “ right,” said Mrs. Bootle ; “ but ex-
 “ cuse me for speaking without reserve
 “ to you : I am very sure that Mr. Frank-
 “ ly doats on you ; for I took remark-
 “ able notice of his behaviour before
 “ your illness ; and my opinion is far-
 “ ther confirmed by the anxiety he shew-
 “ ed when you were in the greatest dan-
 “ ger. Is it therefore prudent to suffer
 “ an intimacy which will certainly in-
 “ flame his passion, when you never in-
 “ tend to gratify it ; (not that I accuse
 “ you of coquetry) and only to endure
 “ his visits, because you don’t chuse
 “ to forbid them.” “ To say the truth,”
 said Charlotte, “ if I thought I was of
 “ consequence enough to give him unea-
 “ siness, I would never see him again :
 “ but I take him to be of too chearful
 “ and

“ and airy a disposition (tho’ I believe
 “ he likes me very well) to be miserable
 “ for any woman. I once thought his
 “ frequent visits were improper, as I was
 “ determined not to marry him, and told
 “ my papa so ; but he is so prejudiced
 “ in his favour, that he will not hear any
 “ thing about breaking off the-acquain-
 “ tance.” “ Your papa, undoubtedly,
 “ hopes,” replied Mrs. Bootle, “ that
 “ Mr. Frankly’s assiduities will, at length,
 “ warm your heart to love ; especially as
 “ he is assured of your esteem, which,
 “ let me tell you, is a considerable point.
 “ If you never had seen Welford, you
 “ might have, perhaps, liked Frankly.”
 “ Perhaps I might,” said Charlotte ;
 “ tho’ I fancy our tempers would not
 “ suit : there were so many agreeable
 “ qualities blended together in Welford,
 “ that I do not expect to meet with his
 “ equal. He was serious, without being
 “ sullen, or dull ; his mirth was free from
 “ levity, and his wit from ill-nature :
 “ he had all the strength and courage of
 “ his own sex, with all the gentleness and
 “ delicacy

“ delicacy of ours. Oh ! that I was ever
 “ deceived in such a man ! ” “ Think no
 “ more of him,” said Mrs. Bootle ; his
 “ departure was too abrupt, and not con-
 “ sistent with the character you have
 “ drawn of him ; yet I cannot help ex-
 “ pecting some important discoveries, as
 “ you own he once really loved you. I
 “ had all the reason in the world to be-
 “ lieve,” said Charlotte, “ that his pro-
 “ fessions were sincere. But,” continued
 she, sighing, “ were he to return with
 “ his former tenderness, would not the
 “ marks which my distemper has left,
 “ render me an object of his dislike, and
 “ lessen, if not totally eradicate it ? ”
 “ Why so,” replied Mrs. Bootle ? “ you
 “ will probably lose your blooming com-
 “ plexion ; but I dare say you will not
 “ be seam’d : nay, I dare say you will
 “ look very well again in a few months :
 “ yet the alteration in your person has
 “ no effect on Frankly,” continued she ;
 “ for he shews more regard to you than
 “ before.” “ You flatter me,” cried
 Charlotte, “ with hopes that I must not
 “ indulge.

“indulge. To convince you, however;
 “that I have acted honourably with re-
 “gard to Frankly, I have told him my
 “heart was engaged, insisted on his ask-
 “ing for no explanations, and entreated
 “him to be secret.” “Oh! very well,”
 said Mrs. Boole, archly; “when a lady
 “makes an agreeable young fellow her
 “confident in a love affair, there’s cer-
 “tainly a good understanding between
 “them.” She gave this lively turn to
 Charlotte’s speech, in order to prevent her
 reflecting too seriously on Welford, and to
 turn the conversation to more indifferent
 subjects.

END of the Second Book.



